

to marriage. The brothels of Bombay constitute a serious problem in public health in that city: 75 per cent. of the male patients were infected in brothels, and 15 per cent. by amateur prostitutes. No less than 50 per cent. of the 341 female patients treated were married women infected by their husbands.

A very instructive table in the report is Table VIII. In this table an analysis of the treatment sought by 3,644 infected persons from 1918 to 1922, prior to coming to the official dispensaries, is given. Of this number 1,545 had sought advice from qualified medical practitioners and 470 from hospitals: whereas 1,326 had resorted to quacks and herbalists and 303 had dosed themselves with patent medicines. Unqualified salvarsan injection givers appear to be rampant in every presidency city in India, and the victims of their want of skill and septic methods must be legion.

Dr. Noronha rightly urges the necessity for a full municipal scheme for a well equipped and staffed central anti-venereal dispensary in Bombay city, with subsidiary sub-centres; since he estimates that not a tenth of the cases registered at the existing municipal dispensaries are referred to the dispensaries of the League for diagnosis and treatment. He also records the educational value of the League's work in post-graduate training of medical men in venereal diseases, and in the collection of Indian statistics.

Dr. Myrtle Machado, Lady Physician to the Dispensary, comments on the domiciliary and ante-natal and infant welfare work of the League. The extent of the social evil in Bombay City may be gathered from the fact that the nurse employed by the League visited 285 brothels in which 1,212 inmates were found. European brothels were left alone, as they were found in general to be cleanly kept and to have a medical attendant. Infant mortality within the first year of life in Bombay City reaches the appalling total of 552 per 1,000 live births, and 442 out of 1,000 babies born living die within the first month of life. 30 per cent. of such deaths are attributed to syphilis.

The annual budget sheet shows that the expenditure during the year was approximately Rs. 23,394: of which sum only Rs. 441 was found by public subscriptions and donations. Are there no philanthropists in "the second city of the Empire" to support and encourage work of such social value and public utility?

Reviews.

OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR. MEDICAL SERVICES. SURGERY OF THE WAR. Edited by Major-Generals Sir G. W. MacPherson, Sir A. A. Bowlby, Sir Cuthbert Wallace and Lt.-Colonel Sir Crisp English, London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1922. Vol. I, pp. 618. Price £1-5-0 net. Vol. II, pp. 604. Price £1-5-0. (Obtainable from Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta, and from all Agents for Government Publications, India.)

THE unparalleled number of battle casualties which occurred during the war gave the consulting and specialist surgeons who were employed with the British medical units an unrivalled opportunity for surgical work, and as the years went on the improvements in methods placed war surgery in a position which it had never occupied in the past. In these two volumes on the Surgery of the War the consulting surgeons and certain of the surgical specialists who held commissions in the R. A. M. C. record the conclusions reached. In some cases the changes which pre-war surgery underwent during the war are followed step by step, but in most of the articles the object has been to describe only those methods which at the end of the war had been found to be the most trustworthy. In some cases the results may be regarded as final, but in others, notably the treatment of nerve injuries, finality cannot be considered as attained

until the records of the cases still in the charge of the Ministry of Pensions become available.

The first volume opens with chapters on projectiles and their action, by Colonel Pilcher, A.M.S., subjects on which our knowledge has naturally become much more precise. Lieutenant-Colonel Cowell deals with wound shock in Front Line areas, describing his own observations on blood pressure under conditions of excitement and strain and the differentiation of primary from secondary shock. Captain Fraser deals with Shock in Clearing Stations and this chapter is undoubtedly one of the best résumés of the subject which has yet been written. The accepted theories which held the field up to 1914, the physiological arguments for and against each, the methods by which Crile's and Henderson's theories were tested, the proof that the blood volume in active circulation is diminished and that there is a stagnation of red blood corpuscles in the capillaries, the part played by tissue destruction, lowered blood pressure, sub-oxygenation and acidosis are all clearly set out and lead to the description of rational methods of prevention and treatment, based on an understanding of the true pathology of the condition. The methods of blood transfusion and blood grouping are described by Major G. Gordon Taylor and Captain K. M. Walker and the indications for this procedure are clearly set out. The citrate method has emerged as the most suitable for work under war conditions and appears likely to become the method of choice in civilian surgery also.

The successful prophylaxis of tetanus is one of the outstanding features of the war, though we learn from Professor Andrew's article that no therapeutic agent save antitetanic serum in massive doses, preferably by the intrathecal route, was found of value in treatment.

Warmed ether was found to be the most useful all-round anaesthetic, though gas and oxygen possessed special advantages for cases suffering from shock and hæmorrhage. Captain Crampton emphasises the necessity for skilled administration of the latter, and draws attention to the difficulties caused by irritable throats due to excessive cigarette smoking, a point which most surgeons must have noticed since the war. Spinal anaesthesia, we learn, was abandoned, on account of the fall of blood pressure induced by it, which intensified shock.

A series of chapters on Surgery in Field Ambulances, Clearing Stations and General Hospitals by Lieutenant-Colonel Max Page, Sir A. Bowlby and Sir George Makins outlines the steps by which the work to be undertaken in each area gradually became defined, and the stages of treatment of wounds by antiseptics, hypertonic saline, "borsal," cresol paste, eusol, Carrel-Dakin solution, chloramine, "B. I. P." and flavine, which culminated in the conclusion, universally applicable, that the best method is the excision of all damaged tissue at the earliest possible moment, followed by primary or secondary suture. Antiseptics are thus relegated to the secondary rôle of disinfecting the skin, compensating for errors of technique inevitable under service conditions, preventing re-infection, etc. The names of Wright and Carrel stand out pre-eminent amongst those who contributed to these advances.

Thoracic surgery received a great impetus from the bold work of Pierre Dewal in 1916, which showed that it was perfectly practicable to open the thorax freely, deal with its contents and close the chest wall again. The abolition of the cumbersome differential pressure apparatus hitherto considered necessary was a very notable advance in surgery. In an admirable article, illustrated by many beautiful plates and figures, Colonels Elliott and Gask discuss every aspect of chest wounds, the descriptions of methods of thoracotomy and the indications for its performance being particularly clear and helpful. Abdominal surgery, ably dealt with by Sir Cuthbert Wallace, has not materially advanced, though much valuable experience has been acquired in dealing with abdomino-thoracic wounds.

In Volume II Captains Trotter and Wagstaffe deal with head injuries and we notice an interesting section on late symptoms caused by an opening in the skull, a

condition formerly supposed to be symptomless, and its treatment by bone grafting. Colonel Sir W. Thoburn, in treating of spinal injuries, advocates suprapubic cystotomy in preference to routine catheterisation or "expression" of the urine as the best means of averting cystitis under active service conditions. From the same writer we learn that the results of secondary nerve suture are still very disappointing, perfect neurological recovery being rarely if ever obtained, and 50 per cent. of good economic recoveries being the best that can be hoped for. In this respect the musculo-spiral shows the best results and the ulnar the worst.

Major Gillie's and Captain Mendleson's account of the reconstructive methods employed in injuries of the face and jaw epitomises some of the most remarkable work which has resulted from the war, though the chapter is so condensed and technical that it is difficult for the reader with no knowledge of prosthetic dentistry to follow the details.

Sir George Makins contributes the chapters on injuries of the blood vessels, well illustrated and containing many detailed case reports. They constitute a small monograph on the subject. Arterial suture in the small number of cases in which conditions permitted its employment has given encouraging results, both in wounds of the great vessels and in traumatic and arterio-venous aneurysms.

Wounds of Joints and Fractures are dealt with by Colonels Frankan and Maynard Smith with a fullness of detail which leaves nothing to be desired. In no other branch was greater improvement effected than in the treatment of penetrating wounds of joints and of compound fracture of the femur. This improvement was due to the thorough excision of wounds and to early immobilisation by means of the Thomas splint, as taught and advocated for many years by Sir Robert Jones and the Liverpool school.

Several excellent chapters on orthopaedics follow, that on the joints being by Sir Robert Jones and that on the treatment of ununited fractures by Major Hey Groves. Only a few of the classical amputations have survived the war and many improvements in methods of amputating in septic cases and in the treatment of stumps have been effected, all of which receive adequate treatment at the hands of Major Elmslie. The chapter on injuries of the eye is noteworthy for several beautifully executed colour plates of mustard gas burns.

The whole work constitutes a valuable text-book of the surgery of accidents and injuries. It will be many years before all the advances in surgery made during the war, which we have outlined above, are incorporated in the text-books and in the meantime we can strongly recommend this book to all surgeons.

MALUMATI ZACHGEE BA TASVEER.—By Major Abdul Rahman Khan Laudie, I.M.S., M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), L.M. (Rot., Dub.). Price Rs. 2/- per unbound copy and Rs. 2-8 per bound copy.

THIS book is written in Urdu and is intended to serve as a guide to mothers during pregnancy, labour and puerperium.

The author, in the introductory chapter, draws pointed attention to the untoward results of childbirth which are attributed mostly to the utter ignorance, filthy habits and carelessness of the illiterate old women who are employed as "dais."

The author warns against meddling midwifery, but should also have stated that delays are dangerous. The laity should be educated to send for skilled assistance in cases of delayed labour.

The subjects treated of are:—(1) the anatomy of the uterus; (2) the embedding and early development of ovum; (3) symptoms, signs and hygiene of pregnancy; (4) the phenomena of normal labour; (5) presentation and positions and (6) management of labour and the puerperium. Detailed instructions are given regarding the mode of living of the pregnant women, whilst the

dangers regarding the advent of eclampsia are prominently set forth. A chapter is devoted to the differentiation between true and false pains and to the description as to when a labour is to be considered abnormal.

The most important chapters are those dealing with (1) instructions to the "dai," regarding the management of labour, (2) instructions to the pregnant woman and her attendants at the time of labour, and (3) instructions regarding the confinement room, etc. These will be read with interest and advantage by those for whom they are intended.

The book is illustrated with 36 diagrams, mostly from Jellet's "Short Practice of Midwifery" but, we are constrained to remark that they do not serve their purpose as they have been printed very badly. We trust they will be improved in the next edition.

ENDOCRINE THERAPEUTICS. (PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS).—By Thomas Bodley Scott, H. K. Lewis & Co., 1922. Price Rs. 5 net.

THIS is a delightful little book that should be in the hands of every practitioner, and Dr. Scott is to be congratulated in that he has not only summarised the recent massive literature of the subject, but has done it in a readable manner, with a deep and earnest conviction that in these glands and in their correct use we have nature's own remedies for the many complications and symptoms of disease. Let us take the analogy of the human body to the motor car. All of us can remember the time when cars had to be laboriously and often dangerously wound up; now we use electrical self-starters in place of muscle. So it is in the body. All the unseen chemical changes we call metabolism have to be done by self-starters, for every endocrine gland is a motor and every endocrine gland has its brakes and accelerators, dependent upon the co-ordination of other glands; or we may put it that way.

In health we have a perfect interlocking directorate, in disease one or more of the board are sulky or mutinous. Take for example, any acute fever, such as diphtheria or pneumonia; we all know that the blood pressure falls dangerously. Why? Because the adrenals strike work and this can be proved by post mortem examination. Here then we have an indication for adrenal medication.

On the other hand, as age advances, we know that arterio-sclerosis is the lot of humanity. Here we have as a cause an increase of output from the adrenals combined with a decreased output from the thyroid and therefore a definite indication for thyroid therapy and so on.

Every chapter is a mine of information and gives one "mightily to think." But perhaps the most interesting and novel is that on the anterior pituitary, and it is to be hoped that in any further edition the recent work which has been done and so brilliantly explored by Dr. Leonard Williams on the interstitial gland will find a place.

The author is not a fanatic. He is an earnest thinker and worker, groping hopefully and tentatively in the mist of modern therapeutics and just as we decry to-day the shot gun prescription so often seen in bazar practice, so he deprecates the modern day "firing into the brown" tendency of polyglandular therapy.

This little book of 120 pages is full of practical hints, facts and food for thought and cannot help being of great service to all practitioners.

AIDS TO ORGANOTHERAPY. By Ivo Geike Cobb, M.D., Bailliere, Tindal & Cox, London.

THIS book of the Aid Series that has reached us cannot be recommended to the busy practitioner, for an enormous amount of matter has been condensed (in small print) into 170 pages, and bears no relation to the problems of practice, at least it is not until the last chapter that one gathers that there is any correlation