

NOTES ON BOOKS

Binnie's *Manual of Operative Surgery* (H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., price £3, 3s.), which now appears in its eighth edition, does not call for detailed notice. This work has established itself as a standard source of reference, and is, or should be, on the table of every operating surgeon. Special attention is given to the more complicated and difficult operative procedures, and these are described in such detail as to enable the young operator to follow the steps with precision. In most cases alternative methods are described and commented upon so that a choice may be made to suit the case in hand. In the present issue the chapter on War Surgery has been omitted, but the surgical lessons learned during the war are incorporated throughout the text. The chapters on thoracic, abdominal, and plastic surgery have been practically rewritten, and although all the most important advances in operative technique are included in these, as in other sections, the volume is no larger than its immediate predecessor. The illustrations, which are numerous, are of unequal merit and suffer from the lack of explanatory legends.

The *Text-book of Pathology*, by Alfred Stengel and Herbert Fox (W. B. Saunders Company, price £2, 2s.), is already well known in this country, and in its seventh edition presents to the student and practitioner a comprehensive view of modern pathology. The text has been thoroughly revised and much of it rewritten in the light of advances in knowledge made since the previous issue was set. The microscopic illustrations are good—the naked-eye ones less satisfactory.

It is not necessary to do more than record the appearance of a new edition—the 12th—of *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, by Dr Mitchell Bruce and Dr W. J. Dilling (Cassell & Company, Ltd., price 10s. 6d. net). Retaining all the recognised qualities of previous editions, the latest issue includes much new matter in the sections dealing with vitamins, vaccines, mineral waters, and invalid diet, as well as a short summary of the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1920.

Sir James Mackenzie's *Symptoms and their Interpretation* is so well known and so highly valued that we need not do more than chronicle the appearance of a fourth edition (Shaw & Sons). It is a clearly defined endeavour to find the laws governing the production of symptoms in disease and to guide research along better lines. The author points out that the line of advance lies not in the finding of new symptoms, but in the understanding of those we already know, not only as to their causation but also as to the indication they give of the

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future course of the patient's complaint. The symptoms occurring in the affections of the alimentary, pulmonary, and cardiac systems all receive consideration, and as an appendix the "Theory of Disturbed Reflexes in the Production of Symptoms of Disease" as recently published is included.

In the preliminary chapters of *The Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen* by Zachary Cope, M.D., F.R.C.S.Eng. (Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, price 12s. 6d. net), the author deals with the principles of diagnosis in acute abdominal cases. His case form for the taking of a history of these cases is given, and the various signs and symptoms that may occur are discussed with a view to making a definite diagnosis. In the succeeding chapters those acute conditions requiring operation are dealt with in turn, considerable space being devoted to the Appendix. The diagnosis of abdominal injuries, the acute abdomen in the Tropics and various conditions which simulate the abdominal emergencies are also included. There is a tendency for the subject-matter of the different chapters to overlap, but the volume is quite a practical one, and should prove useful to those who have to diagnose this type of case in its earliest stages.

The Anatomy of the Human Orbit and Accessory Organs of Vision, by S. Ernest Whitnall (Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, price 35s. net), is primarily intended for the ophthalmologist, but will appeal also to the general anatomist as a regional study. It deals very completely with the anatomy of the orbit, and is divided into three sections headed "Osteology," "The Eyelids," and "The Orbital Contents." A description of the accessory sinuses of the nose is included, and there is an appendix on the cerebral connections of the nerves. The author has produced a clear and well-written book, full of points that are of great practical importance to the surgeon. The illustrations, nearly all photographs of actual dissections, are well chosen and excellently reproduced.

In *Local Anæsthesia in Dental Surgery* Mr Norman Black, L.D.S.Eng. (John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., price 5s. net), has succeeded in his desire to advance the sphere of usefulness of local anæsthesia on dentistry, and has given a description of the anatomy necessary for the scientific application of the technique which he recommends to be followed by those who would avail themselves of the more recent developments of the subject. The book contains much useful advice and is illustrated with helpful diagrams.