

Whilst nothing very new is to be found in these pages, the reader will probably benefit by using this volume, mainly because the authors present their matter well, and incidentally by reason of the good practice which is obtained by following a well-known theme in a foreign language.

F. I. G. R.

MEDICAL SCIENCES

Medical Microbiology

By Prof. Kenneth L. Burdon. Pp. xii+763. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1939.) 18s. 6d. net.

THIS work, which is intended both for students and their teachers, is divided into four parts and five appendixes. The first part, which deals with the fundamentals of microbiology, consists of sixteen chapters, including an account of the historical aspects of the subject, the various types of micro-organisms, their classification and nomenclature, and their destruction by physical and chemical methods. The second part is concerned with the laboratory study of micro-organisms, and gives a description of the apparatus, culture media, isolation of bacteria and the collection of specimens for bacteriological examination. In the third part, which deals with infection and resistance, sources of infection, modes of spread by water, milk and other foods, the part played by insects, natural and acquired immunity, vaccine and serum therapy, and anaphylaxis receive attention. In the fourth part the microbiology of important infectious diseases is studied, including tetanus, diphtheria, pneumonia, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, staphylococcus and streptococcus infections, etc. The appendixes are devoted to a comparison of metric and English scales, formulæ for the preparation of media, reagents and stains, important immunological tests, classified lists of references, and questions to which the answers will be found in the foregoing pages.

This comprehensive work, which is liberally illustrated, will form a useful handbook for the laboratory worker and clinician alike.

Epidemiology in Country Practice

By Dr. William Norman Pickles. Pp. viii+110+1 plate. (Bristol: John Wright and Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin Marshall, Ltd., 1939.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE author, who is medical officer of health to the Aysgarth rural district in Yorkshire, is introduced in the preface by Prof. Major Greenwood in allusion to the Bristol physician and epidemiologist as "a second Budd", which, as the reader will find, is a high, but well-merited, compliment. Dr. Pickles not only appeals to other country doctors to keep records, as he has done for many years, of epidemic diseases, but also seeks to awaken the interest of the layman, whose help in this field he regards as inestimable. The work, which is remarkably readable, consists of a number of essays, some of which have already been published in various medical journals, dealing with certain common infectious diseases,

such as influenza, measles, scarlet fever, whooping-cough, mumps and chicken-pox, as well as less common infections, such as Sonne dysentery, pink disease, undulant fever, epidemic catarrhal jaundice, and the disease variously known as epidemic myalgia, Bornholm disease or devil's grip, the occurrence of which in Great Britain was first described by Dr. Pickles.

Diet in Health and Disease

Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston and Dr. Alan A. Moncrieff. (Published on behalf of the *Practitioner*.) Pp. 382. (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., 1939.) 14s. net.

MORE than thirty years have elapsed since the appearance of the last important British compendium on diet, edited by the late Dr. G. A. Sutherland, so that a new book on the subject was urgently needed. Most of the articles in the work have already been published in the *Practitioner*, but they have been revised and a few new ones have been added. The book contains twenty-eight chapters contributed by thirty-two specialists. The chapters on diet in health deal with the various forms of infant feeding, diet in childhood, old age, winter and summer, pregnancy and lactation, and in the tropics, while the chapters on diet in disease are concerned with sick-room menus and recipes, diseases of the various systems and allergic diseases. A special chapter is devoted to alcohol, the dietetic use of which has been greatly reduced in recent years. The up-to-date and practical advice in which the work abounds will render it a useful handbook to the practitioner and student.

The Handicap of Deafness

By Irene R. Ewing and Dr. Alex. W. G. Ewing. Pp. x+328+3 plates. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book contains a unique record of experience in a particularly arduous field of social science, and is likely indeed to fulfil the aims of its authors to provide a working source of information alike for the deaf and those who serve them. The difficulties which beset the management of the deaf are dealt with in a manner connoting wide knowledge and technical competence, and the lessons to be learned are both valuable and clearly defined. Particularly striking are the figures showing the time wasted in chronic deafness in adults before the initiation of lip reading, its importance in reinforcing any hearing aid, and the high percentage of deafened adults who can be considerably assisted by modern electrical apparatus.

The sections dealing with the measurement of deafness are eminently sound. Intelligibility of speech is very properly made the basic test, and the reviewer particularly welcomes the emphasis laid upon the necessity in such tests of excluding the influence of context. The method adopted of nonsense syllables is probably the best available, but more emphasis might have been laid upon the necessity