

Landing-stages" contains some excellent notes and illustrations of the more modern methods of construction of these structures. River quays and wharves are well described, and the Liverpool floating landing-stage is discussed and well illustrated.

The various tables in the book will prove of great value to the maritime engineer, especially those indicating (on pp. 66 and 67) the tidal rises at certain harbours. The specification for cement and concrete (on pp. 149-59) is also most useful, and some of the larger plates give a great deal of detail as to the planning of harbours. Fig. 36a, which is a plan of the Aberdeen Harbour, is exceptionally good. The illustrations generally are excellent; it is seldom that one meets with a technical work so well illustrated.

The second edition of this standard work should certainly find a place on the shelves of the library of every maritime engineer; as a book of reference it is second to none.

E. R. M.

RADIO-THERAPY.

Radiography and Radio-therapeutics. By Dr. R. Knox. Second edition. Part ii., *Radio-therapeutics*. Pp. x+387-606. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd., 1918.) Price 15s. net.

THE second edition of Dr. Knox's work, "Radiography and Radio-therapeutics," is completed by the appearance of part ii., "Radio-therapeutics." Part ii. leaves on the mind of the reader very much the same general impression as that of part i., namely, that of an excellent production. A perusal of the book shows an ever-widening range of utility of X-rays and radium in the treatment and alleviation of disease. They are agents which, under expert guidance, are beneficial in the treatment, not only of superficial ailments such as intractable skin diseases, but also of deep-seated conditions; and of these the treatment of internal growths, benign and malignant, claims much of the author's attention.

Apart from the above-mentioned applications there is evidently a place for the radiations in the treatment of the several varieties of blood diseases and other somewhat obscure pathological conditions.

A special chapter is devoted to the use of X-rays and radium in injuries and diseases among the wounded, and a following chapter, which illustrates the value of radiations in plastic surgery of the face and jaws, is contributed by Mr. Percival P. Colé. The fearful nature of some of these wounds would lead many to despair of betterment, but the combination of surgery and the administration of some form of radiation have in many cases resulted in a veritable transformation of the patient.

The physical properties of the rays from radium and its emanation therefrom are very clearly dealt with in a chapter contributed by Mr. C. F. S. Phillips.

The thorough way in which the application of these agents to the appropriate pathological condition is set forth in this volume is in itself a reassurance as to their utility; but what pleases

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us most is the general outlook upon the subject of radio-therapeutics adopted by the author. A confidence in the utility of the agents he handles is tempered by a realisation of (1) the lack of precision in their administration, and (2) the little that is known as to the real nature of the changes set up in cell life under exposure to the rays. Moreover, he shows a keen appreciation of the service which the investigator may render to the future development of the subject of medical radiology, for on p. 395 we find: "By a combined attack from the physical and clinical aspects, we may hope in the near future to produce a marked improvement in our methods of treatment by radiations, which should result in material benefit to patients suffering from malignant disease."

The range of X-radiation which is at hand for clinical application covers several octaves, and the fact that one variety of cells may respond in a totally different manner from another, according to what type of radiation it is exposed to, is clearly in the author's mind when he writes, as on p. 540: "The reason why one case responds and another fails to do so is one of the profound problems which the radio-therapist is striving to fathom, and when the solution is arrived at it will go a long way to establish radiation treatment on a sound basis. In all probability the explanation is a biological one, a condition of cell, physical or other, which responds to a particular type of ray. . . ."

The book will undoubtedly do much towards a fuller recognition of the clinical utility of these radiations, and also towards placing radio-therapy on a surer scientific footing than it holds at the present day.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Field Sanitation. By C. G. Moor and E. A. Cooper, in collaboration with other Officers and Men of the 1st London Sanitary Company. Pp. viii+220. (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, 1918.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

WHEN the history of the war comes to be reviewed and all the marvellous achievements of our Army, none will be more noteworthy than the wonderful health record. This is, to a great extent, due to the work of the Sanitary Companies, and the volume under review, written by two of their officers, is intended to hand on the results of their experiences and those of their colleagues. It is written in simple and readable form, and will make a very useful text-book, not only for the highly trained but perhaps less experienced sanitary officers, but also for the men under their command.

The opening chapter deals with general hygiene, and includes notes on many, if not all, of the infectious diseases liable to attack the troops. Chapters follow on flies and other insect pests; disposal of refuse; latrine and urinal construction; baths and laundries; brickwork, wooden buildings, and metal work; disinfection; drainage and sewage disposal; water; ventilation; food; camping; economy; and the work of sanitary sections.