

Man against Microbe

By Prof. Joseph W. Bigger. Pp. 304+18 plates. (London: English Universities Press, Ltd., 1939.) 7s. 6d. net.

PROF. BIGGER, who is professor of bacteriology at Trinity College, Dublin, and author of a standard work on the subject, has set out to give educated readers who are not necessarily scientific investigators some idea of the nature of microbes, the methods of their study and their effects. He begins with a fascinating account of the first microbiologist, Antony van Leeuwenhoek, and then discusses the meaning and history of microbiology and the relation of microbiology to mankind, including a lucid description of the work of Koch, Pasteur, Ehrlich, Metchnikoff, Theobald Smith and Bordet among others. The text is liberally interspersed with portraits, illustrations of bacteriological equipment and microphotographs, and a glossary is appended. The work is written in an easy and familiar style, admirably suited for the class of readers for whom it is intended.

Brompton Hospital Reports

A Collection of Papers recently published from the Hospital. Vol. 7, 1938. Pp. iv+207+39 plates. (London: Brompton Hospital, 1939.) 5s.

BESIDES the annual medical report of the Hospital, this volume contains twenty articles, of which all but two, describing a method of inducing artificially selected collapse in pneumothorax therapy and an exhaustive account of the cauterization of pleuro-pulmonary lesions, have been published elsewhere. The other articles deal with various aspects of pulmonary tuberculosis, pneumonia and bronchiectasis, artificial pneumothorax, obstruction of the trachea, thoracoscopy and cauterization of adhesives, radiology and the surgery of inflammatory lesions of the lungs, cardiac emergencies and the prevention of minor ailments. The indexes of authors and subjects for vols. 1-7 are included.

Medicine in Modern Society

By David Riesman. Pp. vii+226. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1938.) 11s. 6d. net.

IN this work, which is based on his Vanuxem lectures delivered at Princeton University, Dr David Riesman, formerly professor of clinical medicine and now occupying the chair of the history of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, has given the layman a clear and comprehensive account of the progress of medicine in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and of the various problems which have arisen during that period. The subjects discussed include cancer, medical education, the prevalence of neurosis, superstitions and cults, with special reference to homœopathy, osteopathy and chiropractic, medicine as a career, the family doctor, medical ethics and preventive medicine.

Recent Advances in Forensic Medicine

By Dr. Sydney Smith and Dr. John Glaister. Second edition. Pp. viii+264+16 plates. (London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., 1939.) 15s.

THE principal subjects discussed in this well-known work, which should prove indispensable alike to medical jurists and barristers, are the diagnosis of injuries from projectiles, the identification of firearms, the examination of powders and the products of their production, the medico-legal application of the precipitin and other tests based on the action of precipitins and the individuality of the blood. The chief additions to the new edition, which contains seventy more pages and nineteen more figures than the last, are the incorporation of recent work on blood grouping, a chapter on the cuticular scales of hair by Prof. Alan R. Moritz of Harvard University, enlargement of the chapter on spectroscopy in medico-legal work, important additions to the chapter on alcohol in the blood, including an account of Widmark's method, and a note on larval infestation and putrefaction by Dr. A. G. Mearns.

Miscellany

If War Comes (an Essay on India's Military Problems) By B. P. Adarkar. Pp. 41+xxxii+306+19 plates. (Allahabad: The Indian Press, Ltd., 1939.) 2.8 rupees.

THE central theme of this essay on problems of defence in India from the Indian point of view is that India's only hope of safety lies in full partnership and co-operation with Great Britain. The author argues that Indian and British interests are essentially the same in a world war, and that for India to remain outside, even if allowed, might merely result in her falling under a fresh foreign dominion. If, however, India needs Great Britain's help in defence he urges that Great Britain needs the help which India's man-power and natural resources could contribute. The effect of the rapidly changed conditions of modern warfare upon the individual problems of the defence of India is discussed, and Prof. Adarkar in a series of chapters urges the planning of Indian defence to ensure the most effective co-operation between Indian and non-Indian on terms of mutual respect, the efficient utilization of Indian resources and the stimulation of industry, trade and transport in India on lines designed to render her less vulnerable and more self-supporting or independent in the event of hostilities.

If his book is intended to bring home to his countrymen the reality of their danger it equally makes an appeal to Great Britain for yet more generous treatment the sincerity of which cannot be doubted. The community of interest between Great Britain and India offers an opportunity of developing yet further the spirit of national service, good will and co-operation which may overcome the difficulties in the way of full self-government whether from Hindu-Moslem jealousies, the problem of the Native States or embedded prejudices of the Services.