

cillin will supersede every other type of treatment. However, the details of optimum penicillin treatment are not determined as yet. Probably the best preparation for the treatment of syphilis that has appeared so far is procaine penicillin in oil with 2 per cent aluminum monostearate. Prolonged action, rather than high blood levels, is important in antisyphilitic therapy, and injections of this preparation give measurable blood levels lasting several days.

In the discussion of neurosyphilis, penicillin is stated to be equal to, if not better than, all older types of treatments including malaria, and Dr. Thomas predicts that fever therapy may be discarded after the technique of penicillin treatment has been perfected. He stresses the importance of the spinal fluid changes as a guide to treatment that is more reliable than the clinical course. If the spinal fluid shows a normal cell count and protein content six months after treatment, there is little chance of progression, even though the Wassermann and gold tests remain positive.

"Syphilis: Its Course and Management" is a brief, readable, authoritative treatise that is probably more useful than any book on this subject that has been published up to the present time.

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**THE COMPLEAT PEDIATRICIAN**—Practical, Diagnostic, Therapeutic and Preventive Pediatrics—for the Use of Medical Students, Internes, General Practitioners and Pediatricians. By Wilburt C. Davison, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N. C., Sixth Edition, Duke University Press, 1949. \$5.00.

This unique volume (the antique spelling of its title is taken from Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*) now deservedly reaches its sixth edition (the first was published in 1934), having proved its usefulness not only to pediatricians but also to general practitioners and other physicians having occasion to deal with children. For those not already familiar with the work, it should be explained that it is essentially a notebook for quick reference to practically all the clinical problems of childhood. It contains an enormous amount of factual information condensed into a volume less than an inch in thickness (which can be placed in a medical bag), with an excellent index and with many cross references in the text. The amount of material contained in the volume will be better appreciated from the author's statement that for the last edition he has consulted 2,418 original articles in addition to the 17,405 used in previous editions. Thus, the reader has at hand and within a few moments, up-to-date information on practically all phases of pediatrics, including disease syndromes, individual symptoms, physical examination, laboratory methods, diets, growth and development, and commonly used prescriptions.

Obviously, such a work has its limitations and, for full description of individual topics, one must consult one of the larger texts, but within such limitations "The Compleat Pediatrician" covers a vast range in amazing detail. Dr. Davison is professor of pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine and an outstanding authority in his field.

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**THE PRACTICE OF REFRACTION.** By Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, M.D., F.R.C.S., Surgeon-Oculist to H.M. the King, Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Army and the Royal Air Force. Fifth Edition. 216 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$6.25.

Since the first edition was introduced in 1928 this book has become one of the standard texts on refraction. In the book a simple and essentially non-mathematical form of presentation has been employed, stressing the clinical practice of refraction without burdening the reader with cum-

bersome mathematical formulae. Particular emphasis is put on the symptoms of refractive errors together with their treatment.

In the new fifth edition the character of the book remains essentially unchanged although new matter has been added here and there.

In the chapter on myopia the discussion of the etiology has been revised to conform to some of the more modern conceptions. There has also been considerable revision in the text on the treatment of myopia. The description of the mechanism of accommodation has been brought up to date and a chapter has been added on anomalies of convergence. The transient changes in refraction and the subject of aniseikonia have been discussed in more detail than in previous editions. The chapter on squints has been curtailed so that only their relation to refractive errors has been considered.

The format in general resembles that of previous editions but the paper and printing do not measure up to the usual standard. In spite of this the book remains a "must" among the textbooks of the resident in ophthalmology.

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**THE SKIN PROBLEM FACING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.** By Herbert Lawrence, M.D., Timely Publications, 303 Sutter Street, San Francisco, 1948.

This very readable small volume was written for the adolescent patient with acne. It is intended to explain his problems in language which he can understand so that he can cooperate with his doctor, in much the same way that similar books have been written for patients with tuberculosis, diabetes, allergic disease, etc.

The causes of acne are discussed, many misconceptions are corrected, and advice is given regarding diet, general hygiene, and local home care of the skin. Considerable stress is placed upon the emotional problems of adolescence which the author considers to be an important contributing factor. Finally, the author explains what a properly qualified dermatologist might be expected to accomplish in the treatment of this disorder.

To this reviewer, it would appear that the book maintains a carefully balanced approach to the subject, utilizes modern scientific knowledge and refrains from extravagant claims or advocating therapeutic procedures which are insufficiently established. Perhaps a little stronger emphasis should have been given to the tendency of the disease itself to produce scarring and to the fact that the scars which remain after the active process has subsided were caused by the destruction of tissue by the pustules and infected cysts and *not* by the treatment such as roentgen therapy, opening of lesions, etc.

The acne patient should derive considerable benefit from reading this volume, and the dermatologist should be benefited by receiving much better cooperation from the patient.

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**CAMPBELL'S OPERATIVE ORTHOPEDICS.** Editor, J. S. Speed, M.D.; Associate Editor, Hugh Smith, M.D. Second Edition, 1,141 illustrations including two color plates. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1949. \$30.00.

This excellent two-volume review of the field of orthopedic surgery is of interest not only to the orthopedic surgeon but to the general and industrial surgeon as well. Though considerable attention is given to fundamental subjects such as pre- and postoperative care, operative approaches and techniques, most characteristically the book offers a wide variety of surgical procedures for various orthopedic deformities and diseases. The volumes, containing many references, are well indexed and illustrated. New material not in the first edition has been included.