

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS

Physical Diagnosis. 14th edition. By F. Dennette Adams, M.D. Pp. xiii + 926. Illustrated. 96s. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1958.

The original author of this work was that great American teacher, Dr. Richard C. Cabot, of Harvard Medical School, who was responsible for the first 11 editions and who sought the help of the present author in the preparation of the 12th edition in 1938. Since Dr. Cabot's death the following year, Dr. Adams has taken over the work, and the extensive rewriting on account of modern developments makes it now entirely his book. It is a practical work, dealing with the conditions one is likely to meet in everyday practice, and no attempt has been made to include the unusual and the extreme. It is well illustrated, but one would have preferred certain plates in colour in addition to those of the fundi.

A.H.T.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health in South Africa 6th edition. By E. H. Cluver, K.St. J., E.D., M.A., M.D., B.Ch. (Oxon), D.P.H. (Eng.), F.R.S.I. Pp. vi + 364. 85 figures. South African price 42s. Johannesburg: Central News Agency Ltd. 1959.

On perusing the latest edition of Professor Cluver's classic work *Public Health in South Africa* we are reminded of Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph in St. Paul's Cathedral, *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*; for this book, together with his other publications, viz. *Medical and Health Legislation in the Union of South Africa* and *Social Medicine*, constitutes the means by which he will be honoured and remembered by future generations of students. What finer monument can a writer desire? The appearance of the 6th edition will be generally welcomed by students of public health who wish to keep abreast of the great advances that have been made in this highly specialized field. Professor Cluver has dealt exhaustively with all the important aspects of public health, and he has done so in a limpid literary style which younger writers would do well to emulate. The aspects of public health covered in the book relate to the following: The human and physical

environment, water, food, malnutrition, housing, refuse disposal, disinfectants, the enteric fevers, tuberculosis, leprosy, venereal diseases, plague, rheumatic fever, smallpox, poliomyelitis, influenza, rabies, trachoma, yellow fever, typhus, malaria, bilharziasis, occupational health, the pneumoconioses, cancer, vital statistics, health legislation, and cigarette smoking. All the chapters are extremely well balanced, and for students of industrial medicine those on occupational health and the pneumoconioses will prove a boon. The book is beautifully bound and excellently printed, and will bring enduring credit to the publishers as well as the author. To have it on one's shelves, is to have the vicarious pleasure of the author's companionship, which one has known across the irrecoverable years. L.F.F.

A TEXT-BOOK OF PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacology. 5th edition. By J. H. Gaddum, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Sc.D., F.R.S. Pp. xvi + 587. 93 figures. English price: 42s. London, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1959.

This text-book gives essential facts about the drugs used in therapeutics. It serves as 'an introduction to a romantic science which now has intellectual attractions, and fertile relations with the sister sciences', with practical applications in clinical medicine, veterinary medicine, and pest control. One purpose of the book is to give an account of experimental methods used in the introduction of new therapeutic agents and potentially dangerous drugs. The kind of evidence that justifies the trial of new drugs is also presented. Chemical formulae and some mathematics and other such details are also included.

The largest new sections deal with the effects of drugs on the brain and with radio-active isotopes but there are many changes throughout the book. In view of the very great increase in pharmacological knowledge this edition is 26 pages longer than the previous one and almost 25% longer than the original 1940 edition; and this only as the result of judicious pruning. All important B.P. 1958 and V.S.P. 1955 drugs are included, with doses, and also many non-official drugs. N.S.