

Book Reviews.

Miracles of Surgery.*

By Jean Eparvier.

THIS BOOK IS A tribute to Surgery written by a journalist, and it is more suitable for the lay reader than the student nurse.

The Foreword emphasises the importance of complete co-operation between medicine and surgery.

Without the discovery, by extensive research, of such drugs as antibiotics, it would not be possible for the miracles of surgery to be performed.

The chapter on "Cosmetic Surgery" may strike one as frivolous, but doubtless ugliness can predispose one to certain forms of neurosis; particularly if it interferes with one's livelihood.

* Elek Books, Ltd., 14, Great James Street, London, W.C.1. Price 5/- net.

Psychology; the Nurse and the Patient.*

By Doris M. Odham.

THIS IS ANOTHER excellent "Nursing Mirror" publication.

A practical knowledge of Psychology helps the nurse to understand the patient, giving him the confidence which is half way to his recovery.

Even the "born nurse" needs guidance, especially in functional diseases, which may be caused by emotional strain or shock.

In recent years we realise more and more how much influence the mind has over the body.

Like all good literature, this book is written in simple language, and should be of great value as a guide to the human approach to the patient.

Incidentally it covers the syllabus of the preliminary examination of State Registered Nurses.

D. B.

* The Nursing Mirror, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London S.E.1. Price 7/6 net.

Exhibition on Rodent Control.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division), will present a rodent control exhibition in the Institute's Museum of Hygiene, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1. The exhibition will open on Tuesday, May 26th, and remain open until Saturday, June 20th, 1953.

The exhibits will have a direct appeal to those professions concerned with rats and mice both from a control and from a biological point of view, and will also be of interest to students and members of the general public. They will include live specimens of pests, shown against natural backgrounds, and examples of the damage they do; and will demonstrate the latest methods of control recommended by the Ministry, including the use of Warfarin.

An outstanding feature of the exhibition will be an apparatus using ultra-violet rays for detecting otherwise invisible traces due to the presence of rats and mice. There will also be film shows on rodent control.

Other examples of supporting publicity available to local authorities, such as display material, exhibition stands, street banners, posters and leaflets, may also be seen. This material is specially designed for exhibitions featuring civic services, public health, etc.

Officers of the Ministry will be in attendance to answer enquiries and to accept bookings from local authorities for exhibition material.

Admission is free, without ticket. The hours of opening are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Chief Inspector of Factories (Sir George Barnett) for the year 1951 has been presented to Parliament and was published on March 26th, 1953.*

Survey Over Half a Century.

The Report begins with a survey of the changes in the industrial picture over the past 50 years. In 1901 the great consolidating Factory and Workshop Act was passed, since when there had been only one major revision of the law combined with consolidation—the Factories Act, 1937—although Regulations and Welfare Orders had grown at quite a rapid pace.

Inspectors in selected districts had made reports on the changes in their areas or in some special trades connected with it and in some places they had been assisted by the memories of stalwarts both employers and employed, still at work, who had seen the whole 50 years pass by in the same factory.

Industrial Location.

Many shifts in industrial location had taken place. Whilst the great basic industries had remained more or less where they were some local centres had dried up. Nothing but slag heaps and rubbish remained of the world's greatest iron-works of Merthyr and Dowlais; on the other hand vast new industries had been built up. Road transport had revolutionised the siting of factories and by 1951 the complex pattern of road services had made every part of the country accessible. Older workers remembered long walks to work, or, as in Glasgow, journeys by primitive rail coaches, divided into what were virtually horse boxes with wooden seats, with no heating and smokey oil lamps; one man told the inspector how as a boy he used to sit between two fat men for warmth on the journey to the shipyard.

Number of Factories.

Many small firms had been amalgamated or swallowed up into large combines or had disappeared in the relentless struggle, but the great bulk of premises under the Act remained small. The number of factories without power had declined every year. In 1901 there were 95,664 factories with power and 137,648 factories without power (then called workshops); in 1951 there were 212,245 factories with power and only 26,464 without power.

Mechanisation.

Mechanisation had taken away a great deal of the grinding load of hard, dirty work and heavy lifting from many trades. In 1901 a Scottish bakery advertised that "all bread was made by hand"; in 1951 they boasted of bread "not touched by the human hand."

Labour Force.

The years had brought a change in the composition of the labour force in many factories. Women had been introduced to many factories and processes for the first time during the 1914-18 war; after the war many of the jobs reverted to men or disappeared entirely, but again in 1939-45 women had been called upon, and many of them had remained in processes which would formerly have been considered masculine preserves. The fall in the birth-rate and the attraction of other trades had meant a dearth of young people in many industries.

Cleanliness.

At the beginning of the century colour was not thought suitable for factory buildings, and interiors, when not actually dirty, were usually gloomy and drab. Cleanliness had become

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