

REVIEWS.

AIDS TO PRACTICAL NURSING.*

By Májorie Houghton, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.(London).

This is the Fifth Edition of this Handbook of Practical Nursing, which faithfully follows the lines of its predecessors with a few revisions and extensions. Most of the instructions are very good, although the book is written in monotonous style. Some of the instructions could be written differently to make the book happier reading. For example, on page 47, Miss Houghton, in dealing with the admission of patients, states: "Clothes should be neatly packed for the relatives to take away. Any garments that the patient is likely to want are inspected to see that they are clean and not infested with vermin before being labelled. . . ." Would it not be happier to place the full stop after the word clean? Surely clothes infested with vermin would be so abominably dirty that no inspection would be necessary and they would be dealt with accordingly. Is it *necessary* to "inspect" the clothes of *all* patients? Such procedure could give offence to a sensitive patient and create an unfavourable impression of hospital life.

One paragraph on page 9 we think could be made clearer, in order to relate history more correctly. In paragraph 4 Miss Houghton states: "In 1916 the College of Nursing was founded by leaders of the Nursing Profession and by influential persons impressed with the need for greater professional organisation. A draft scheme for the State Registration Act was drawn up, sponsored by the Ministry of Health, and passed in 1919."

We think that an unsuspecting reader would infer from this paragraph that the Royal College of Nursing was responsible for obtaining State Registration for Nurses, whereas this is not in accordance with fact. The College of Nursing was opposed to the original Bill for State Registration, and tried to introduce its own measure through the House of Lords. As both Bills were passing through Parliament at one and the same time, Dr. Christopher Addison, then Minister of Health, felt that he could not accept either, but promised to introduce a Government Measure for State Registration.

When this Government Bill became law, it was found that the Bill promoted by the Central Committee for State Registration (Mrs. Fenwick's) was practically adopted in full, and was thus acclaimed a great victory for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

It is most essential that historians should be conscientiously accurate in detail, and we sincerely hope that this paragraph will be written more explicitly in future editions.

*Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 7 & 8, Henrietta St., W.C.2. Price 5s.

A GUIDE TO ANATOMY.†

By E. D. Ewart.

This very excellent text-book, now in its sixth edition, is written primarily for Students of Physiotherapy and Electrotherapy. It contains 119 illustrations, 35 of which are coloured and 55 are plates. The text is presented on lovely art paper, and is most beautifully printed and arranged. Difficult names are printed in heavy type and the whole work is arranged so that the student's approach to work is made as easy and as attractive as possible. The coloured illustrations are a joy to behold in these days of austerity and gloom, and the whole work is one of which any student will be proud and pleased to possess.

† H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 136, Gower St., London, W.C.1. Price 25s.

MODERN METHODS OF FEEDING IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD.*

By Donald Paterson, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and J. Forest Smith, F.R.C.P.

This is an excellent guide to child nutrition, diet in pregnancy, the importance of vitamins in the health of mother and child, and of diets required in the different diseases of childhood.

The chapter on the tables of the food content of various types of tinned and powdered milks is most instructive and would obviously be of the greatest possible interest and value at all Ante-Natal Clinics. In fact, the whole book is of such outstanding excellence and is written so simply and is so easily readable, that we recommend it most warmly to Health Centres, Ante-Natal Clinics, Maternity and General Hospitals, and also to pregnant women individually to try to obtain a copy.

There is a wealth of instruction of the utmost value to schools in the chapters on diet for children of school age. The diets are, of course, the ideal, and, unfortunately, in these days of austerity and restriction and rationing, many items mentioned can only be obtained at long intervals.

The chapters on artificial feeding and of the diets required where children are suffering from diarrhoea, vomiting and constipation deserve special attention, for these diseases or ailments are so commonly met with in young children. The book is bound to be successful, for it is so necessary and appears at the time when it is most required.

*Constable & Co., Ltd., 10, Orange Street, W.C.2. Price 8s. 6d.

CAREERS FOR NURSES.†

By Dorothy Deeming, R.N.

This book is most unusual and written in a most interesting and sympathetic style. Miss Deeming is an American Nurse of note, particularly in the literary world, hence the good style of her writing. The careers she outlines are, generally speaking, those careers open to American Nurses, but her English readers will be quite at home with the book, and many—if not all—of the careers she mentions will find their counterpart in England, from which English Nurses may make their choice. Apart from its professional interest to Nurses, the book provides most happy and entertaining reading for the leisure hour, and young nurses will be well advised to get their own copy for reference later on.

G. M. H.

† McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., London, W.C.2. Price 17s. 6d.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

From Miss Jane Bell, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia:—

With Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's other friends at home and abroad I greatly mourn her loss and leadership; she seemed to call a halt to time itself!

From Miss L. L. Doch, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.:—

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is as fine and excellent as ever. The article "More Babies" is delightful. The spirit and competency of our lost leader remains with you.

From Miss B. G. Alexander, ex-President Trained Nurses' Association, South Africa:—

I want to congratulate you upon the tribute you paid to my old friend, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in the April issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. She was a great woman, and I consider it was a great privilege to have known her.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)