

2. This number of deaths is many times the rate for road accidents. Tuberculosis as a cause of sickness, prolonged invalidity and death is much more serious than is generally appreciated.

3. Approximately 4 people in every 1,000 of the population examined by Mass Radiography are found to suffer from active tuberculosis requiring treatment.

4. By modern clinical methods and X-ray technique, including Mass Radiography, tuberculosis can be diagnosed at an early and most curable stage.

5. The great handicap to-day is shortage of hospital beds, due mostly to lack of nurses and other hospital workers. The Minister of Health has declared that 11,000 patients are awaiting admission for treatment. The waiting period in some areas is as much as twelve months.

6. The shortage of nurses in sanatoria is more acute than in general hospitals. Nursing the tuberculous can be as safe as any other form of nursing, with modern methods of hygiene and protection supplemented by B.C.G. vaccination.

7. Good housing is fundamental in the prevention of tuberculosis, and tuberculous people should receive priority in the allocation of existing houses.

8. What we need to-day is an awareness among the general public of these facts, and a demand that facilities for domestic treatment and supervision be improved and increased, and more of the available beds in general hospitals devoted to the tuberculous. The recent Ministry of Health circular appears to recommend this, but what we need to-day is not promise but performance.

Book Reviews.

Ophthalmic Nursing.*

By P. Garland, S.R.N., S.C.M.

WHILST THIS NEW OPHTHALMIC NURSING BOOK is directed primarily for the nurse in the general hospital, it might be of value to nurses in all public health work, especially in factories, subject to attention to the following points.

Miss Garland has succeeded in retaining simplification and conciseness with elimination of theoretical and redundant matter. The illustrations and photographs are clear and in many instances add much to the general effectiveness of the book. There are, however, one or two criticisms which I hope will be helpful.

The method of setting the dressing trolley is not one which would be generally accepted in the ophthalmic hospital, since the top shelf of the trolley would be required to be considered sterile. A very wrong conception of sterility would be given by the method shown, and the sterility required in ophthalmic dressing technique cannot be overstressed at any time.

The use of tap water in the preparation for irrigation should be unheard of in the outpatients' department or elsewhere throughout the hospital. Again, opinion must differ with some of the instructions of nursing care following operation, particularly in the specialised schools of training, where post-operative nursing care is of major importance if the desired result is to be obtained.

It is suggested that the patient should be rolled to the side on the second day following operation. This procedure would be considered of grave risk in the ophthalmic hospital, and contradicts the excellent method outlined under "Post Operative Care."

It is rather unfortunate that where the application of copper sulphate to the lids is explained, the care to avoid contact with the cornea following such treatment has not been stressed as essential. Nor has the undine washout following irrigation and before the instillation of paroline been explained. The wrong impression may be given where it is stated "nurses are taught never to use the same side of a

swab twice." Regardless of the type of hospital, eye-swabs should only ever be used once.

As stressed at the beginning of this review, the book could be of great value as an introduction to ophthalmic nursing, especially in industry.

M. B. M.

* Faber & Faber Ltd., 24, Russell Square, London. Price 12/6.

Aids to Surgical Nursing.*

In the well-known series of Nurses' Text Books entitled "Aids to Nursing"—Teachers and Students alike will welcome the recent issue of the new fourth and revised edition of "Aids to Surgical Nursing," by Miss Katharine F. Armstrong, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N.(Lond.). To keep ahead of the great advance in surgery, surgical treatment and nursing, relevant to wartime experience and research—the fourth and new edition of "Aids to Surgical Nursing" has been revised throughout.

In this splendid volume, Miss Armstrong is to be congratulated on her lucid and comprehensive method of instruction on skilled and often complicated surgical nursing, accompanied by very fine illustrations and diagrams. As we read through the chapters we are impressed by the invaluable gift of the writer to stress the primary reasons of conditions, treatment, etc., in a most interesting manner. The aim of this excellent work is to "provide concisely, clearly and simply, just that quantity of information which the Nurse needs to possess gathered together in an easily read and easily carried, and well illustrated volume at a price within the means of any Nurse." How well the author has succeeded in this valuable work for the Nursing Profession, is reflected in the fact that it provides the necessary teaching for the final State Examination in Surgery and Surgical Nursing.

The appreciation shown by the profession, which brought about the reprinting of the Third Edition (published in 1942), no less than five times, surely speaks for itself!

*Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 7 & 8, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 5s.

Common Sense About Hair.*

In our modern times, the great quest for Hair Beauty has so markedly increased that it has become a cult in the toilet of both men and women, in all grades of society.

The appearance, therefore, of "Common Sense About Hair," by George Reeson, M.I.T., and Charles Bedeman, M.I.T.—experienced experts in the science of Trichology—brings to the public a much needed guide and wise counsel on this subject.

In the opening chapter, the readers will find their knowledge wisely reinforced by a scientific and comprehensive explanation of the structure of the hair and its functions. The following chapters, and throughout the some 70 pages, are full of intensely interesting information concerning the hair—desirable or otherwise!—what to do and what not to do! and many warnings of dangers to be avoided! Finally, the whole book leaves the reader feeling well repaid for the valuable knowledge and guidance gained towards a much desired goal of how to possess healthy and therefore beautiful hair.

This up-to-date booklet, quite the best work we have struck, is a timely need at very reasonable cost—only 3s. 6d, will, we feel sure, be a boon to many.

A. S. B.

* Walding Press Ltd., 18-20, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Earth hath no princelier flowers
Than roses white and roses red.

CAMPION

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