NITROSO-METHYL URETHANE

nor was it appreciated that contact with the skin would result in such deep and extensive ulceration.

In an early article Pechmann (1894) describes the toxic effects of diazo-methane and these are similar to the symptoms and signs described above. He thought that the toxic effect of nitroso-methyl urethane was due to its transformation into diazo-methane in the body. This is unlikely since strong alkali is necessary for the reaction. It is more probable that it is due to the toxic effect of the substance itself.

REFERENCES


Pechmann (1894). Ibid., 2, 1888.

Pechmann (1895). Ibid., 1, 856.


BOOK REVIEWS

ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL FIRST AID, 1947

By R. A. Trevethick, M.B., Ch.B.

In assessing the value of this booklet it is important to remember that it has been written, not as a text-book for the first-aider who is studying for an examination, but to impress the more experienced man with the value of common sense, simplicity, and speed in the practice of his art. Moreover, though it deals with the treatment of injuries which may occur in any factory, it is designed primarily for workers in the United Steel Companies and special emphasis is, therefore, laid on the treatment of major catastrophes, such as hemorrhage and fractures. Four of the thirteen chapters are devoted to the latter subject and concise instructions are given for the treatment of each fracture. The simple method of applying a Thomas splint by two persons is described in detail, and advised for fractures of either femur or tibia.

In the chapter on hemorrhage, it is refreshing to read that "the tourniquet is the most dangerous appliance which is used in first aid, and has caused more trouble than it has prevented." Sir Reginald Watson-Jones, in a foreword to this booklet, comments on this and says he would go even further and deny to any first-aider the right to use a tourniquet at all.

The author rightly points out, when discussing the treatment of burns, that the general, as opposed to the local treatment, is the most important thing in first aid. One must criticise, however, his instructions for treating burns due to strong acids or alkalis, in which it is felt that insufficient emphasis has been laid on the paramount importance of speed in treatment and in the use of adequate amounts of water to flood the affected area. The section on injuries to the eye might also have referred to the effects of acids and alkalis, and again impressed the first-aider with the necessity for speed in providing adequate treatment.

The booklet is concise and easy to read, and should be of value to experienced first-aiders in the steel industry, in giving them the latest methods of treatment, and helping them to discard the mass of elaborate detail which may allow a patient, in the words of Dr. Trevethick "to arrive in hospital with a leg beautifully bandaged and splinted—but dead." A.L.P.

DISEASES OF THE JOINTS AND RHEUMATISM

By Kenneth Stone

The author describes the book as intended for students who regret the omission from the medical curriculum of teaching in the "rheumatic diseases": and thinks that it should prove a helpful guide to those postgraduates who intend to engage in the special study and practice of this branch of medicine. There is no doubt that it achieves these aims. It is excellently printed on fine art paper and has many illustrations. The first part is orthodox and will prove a valuable reference guide. The author, however, seems to come unduly under French influence and quotes repeatedly from French sources; one may wonder whether British and American views would not be more in sympathy with those of most workers in this country. It is stated that gold therapy is unquestionably the most effective therapeutic measure discovered so far for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, a view which would not be accepted by most general physicians; this extreme view is exaggerated by the giving of little space and attention to other forms of treatment.

The second part of the book is devoted to what the author calls "vagotonic muscular rheumatism." Here he puts forward his own views on the causes of myalgia: views which are not generally accepted, though they are stimulating to read. It may be doubted, however, whether a book intended for medical students is the right place to propound these theories. Nevertheless, it is a good book which most doctors will find useful to possess.

K. M. A. P.
DISEASES OF THE JOINTS AND RHEUMATISM

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