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There are some surprising inclusions in this list, e.g. iodine, antitetanic serum, procaine, various surgical instruments, sulphadiazine and penicillin, to mention but a few. The chapters on anatomy, physiology, and bandaging are adequate and well illustrated.

In the treatment of wounds the use of sterile dressings is recommended, but if these are not available freshly ironed handkerchiefs or towels are suggested, an ingenious method of obtaining near sterility. Much mention is made of sulphapyridine in this chapter, though later, in the text, it is recommended that they be given by mouth rather than dusted into the wound. The newer antibiotics are listed, including aureomycin and terramycin; the injection of 500,000 unit doses of penicillin are described as life-saving even in the first aid stage. Debridement of wounds is very inadequately described. Constrictive bandages are prescribed in the treatment of crush injuries of limbs, but little is made of the use of alkalis by mouth.

The chapter on the control of haemorrhage is clear and concise, and although it contains nothing new, it is one which could well be read by many first-aid attendants with advantage.

Fractures are dealt with in a workmanlike manner, and it is gratifying to see that the authors are not recommending the abandonment of splints in upper limb fractures. The principle of extension is well recognized, and the Murray-Jones splint for the arm and the Thomas splint for the leg are both described.

The chapter on gas and bomb casualties includes a chart giving a complete list of gases, their effects and treatment. This list could have been considerably simplified since many of these gases are now of academic interest only, and their inclusion only serves to confuse the student.

The second half of the book deals with emergencies, region by region, and each chapter includes a short note on the anatomy and physiology of the system involved. These are all quite straightforward.

Included in the closing chapters are medical emergencies, poisoning, a comparison of civilian and military casualties, a chapter on feet, and the last chapter of all, "First Aid in Industry". This last chapter is more concerned with the treatment which might be given in the medical department in a works rather than with first aid. It contains a summary of the conditions likely to be met with in industry, but does not make a serious attempt to describe treatment.

As occurs in books which try to encompass too wide a field for a variety of different readers, there is much which is unnecessary and likely to confuse the first-aid attendant who has both a limited knowledge and field. On the other hand, the information is inadequate for the surgeon or industrial medical officer.

R. A. TREVETHICK

THE OCTOBER (1951) ISSUE

The October (1951) issue contains the following papers:—


The Bearing of Experimental Psychology upon Human Skilled Performance. By Sir Frederic Bartlett.

The Effects of BAL on the Metabolism of Lead and on the Symptomatology in Lead Intoxication. By E. C. Vigliani and N. Zurlo.


Valeur de la Tomographie Pulmonaire dans l'Expertise de la Silicose. By L. Roche.


Contribution à l'Etude de la Toxicologie du Trichloréthylène. By René Fabre and René Truhaut.

The Toxicity of Methylal. By Frank L. Weaver, Jr., Alan R. Hough, Benjamin Highman, and Lawrence T. Fairhall.

The Effect of Benzene and of Carbon Tetrachloride on the Concentration of Certain Vitamins, Fat, and Nitrogen in the Liver of the Rat. By Maurice E. Shils, Martin Sass, Margaret Wolke, Grace Marks, Leonard J. Goldwater, and Aaron Berg.


An Environmental Study of the Chromate Industry. By Monamy Buckell and D. G. Harvey.

Carcinoma of the Lung in Chromate Workers. By P. Lesley Bidstrup.

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.I, price 7s. 6d.