REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Forensic Otology. By DOZENT D. R. IMHOFER, of the University of Prague. Leipzig: Verlag von Curt Kabitzsch. 1920.

The original intention of the author was to produce a work on Otology, dealing mainly with accidents, compensation questions, insurance, military services, etc., but after considerable amputations the result is a somewhat condensed description of Forensic Otology. The material was obtained chiefly at the garrison hospital at Krakau from 1915 to 1918.

The Anatomy and Physiology of the Ear are described from a forensic point of view. The lower tone limit is given as 16, and the upper as 50,000. The description of injuries to the ear covers more than half the text, and is given in full, including, among others, gunshot wounds, injuries caused by lightning, operations, etc. The classification of such injuries is obviously a difficult matter. The chapter on Simulation of Deafness is very interesting, and a résumé of methods of testing such cases is given; but too much stress is laid on the instinctive feeling an experienced Aurist has when a case of simulated deafness comes before him. Mention is made of "Psychogalvanic Reflexes," originally described by von Albert, as being useful in testing for simulated and hysterical deafness. The rest of the book considers ear diseases, insanity, and hysteria in their relationship to one another.

A very wide study of the literature has been made, and the text abounds with references, though those to British literature are conspicuous by their absence. As such a thorough study has been made of the subject, it seems a pity that publication was not postponed till the author was able to carry out his original ideas. We hope this may eventually be possible.

As a work of reference for the Otologist it is to be highly recommended, especially to those engaged on Pension Boards in this country; but the title may be misleading to those outside the specialty who are interested in Forensic Otology, as, for instance, the legal profession.

ANDREW CAMPBELL.

Anæsthetics: their Uses and Administration. By DUDLEY WILMOT BUXTON, M.D. Sixth Edition. Pp. xiv + 535, with 89 illustrations. H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., London. 1920.

Dr Dudley Buxton's well-known text-book has now reached its sixth edition and can be recommended as a thoroughly reliable guide to the principles and practice of Anæsthesia.

General Notes

The chapter on shock in its relation to Anæsthesia is excellent, and epitomises the most recent developments of this important subject.

The various methods of inducing anæsthesia employed in intra-oral and intra-nasal surgery are described, but, in the opinion of the reviewer, sufficient prominence is not accorded to chloride of ethyl anæsthesia for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, nor, in this connection, is mention made of the method, introduced by Dr J. H. Gibbs, of evaporating the chloride of ethyl by the simple device of boiling it, by immersion in hot water of the small glass vessel into which it has been sprayed, the vapour then being conducted into the rubber bag of the inhaler by means of a tube. In this way the rate of delivery and the amount of the agent used can be regulated in a manner that can hardly be possible by the method described by Dr Buxton on pp. 318-19.

The whole book has been carefully revised and its value is enhanced by numerous illustrations. H. TORRANCE THOMSON.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.

Section of Laryngology (President, Dr W. Jobson Horne).—The March Meeting of the Section will be held on the 4th of the month, at 4 P.M. Members intending to show cases or specimens should send in their notes a fortnight before that date to the Hon. Secretaries, C. W. M. Hope, 22 Queen Anne Street, W. 1, or W. G. Howarth, 75 Harley Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Otology (President, Sir Charles Ballance).—The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 18th February 1921. All notices of papers and specimens should be sent to the Secretaries, Lionel Colledge, 22 Queen Anne Street, W. 1, or Norman Patterson, 24 Park Crescent, London, W. 1.

The Belgian Society of Otology, Rhinology, and Laryngology will hold its next Meeting in Brussels on 20th February under the Presidency of M. le Docteur Charles Goris.

Dr Henry Peterkin (Aberdeen) has been elected President of the Scottish Otological and Laryngological Society for the year 1921.

Drs Jacques, Lannois, and Mouret have been appointed Professors in Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat in the Universities of Lyons, Montpellier, and Nancy respectively.