BOOK REVIEWS


This book will fill the long-felt need of hundreds of nurses who are engaged in or who wish to engage in visiting nursing. No branch of the work has been overlooked and the detail as treated by the author makes excellent reading. She begins with a brief history of the early movement for public health nursing, and even though it is more or less familiar matter, it makes a desirable introduction. The methods adopted and the systems established show practical reasons for the wonderful progress made, especially during the last ten years. Miss Gardner is to be commended for her efforts, which prove conclusively her knowledge of her work. The book should be available to every student nurse, for it would without doubt aid many in deciding whether or not they wish to take up this line of nursing. Lack of space makes one resist a strong inclination to quote, particularly as it would be very difficult to choose from so many admirable chapters. Considering the many good features of the book, it may possibly seem petty to question the frequent use of the letter s as a substitute for z, when in the spelling of many words the latter is usually given the preference.

First Aid in Emergencies. By Eldridge L. Eliason, A.B., M.D., Assistant Surgeon University of Pennsylvania Hospital; to the Howard Hospital; to the Philadelphia General Hospital; to the American Stomach Hospital; Former Lecturer on “First Aid and Emergencies” in the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, etc. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Price, $1.50.

We regret that through an oversight First Aid in Emergencies has not heretofore been reviewed. The book was written with special thought for the “laity—firemen, police, life guards, sailors, Boy Scouts, explorers, factory workers, etc.” Its constant refrain is, “Send for the doctor,” but, what in the meantime? Directions for meeting all sorts of possible emergencies are given and profuse illustrations help to im-
press the instructions on the mind. We quote the opening paragraph as one well worth remembering: "It is a well-known fact that many a life has been lost because of lack of cool, intelligent and prompt action on the part of a bystander. Such action is best insured by previous instruction, obtained when the mind is most active and retentive. Forewarned is forearmed, so the acquaintance with the principles of first aid beforehand makes one able to act with the greatest intelligence and promptness and renders one capable of assuming command of the situation." The book would materially assist those who are studying to help in case of possible war.


This book was reviewed in our columns when first published in 1913, and the favorable mention then made of it has apparently been justified by its reception. With the exception of the addition of chapters on inflammation and fumigation, a note on the pathology of the more important infections, and the brief mention of recent scientific discoveries, the new edition contains but few changes. It will without doubt continue to be generally used.


It is claimed (though not by the author) that "this new work contains everything the nurse needs to know on these subjects." This may possibly be true. Its composition is entirely different from the book on the same subject just reviewed, and was written as the result of a series of lectures given to nurses. All seemingly unnecessary detail has been omitted, but it is a readable book, and one easily to be remembered. There are but few illustrations.