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gives, as ever, a full and conscientious series of abstracts of the latest communications in the realm of otology. To admit that one has overlooked many of the original papers which he has abstracted may be a confession of weakness, but it is only an exceptional reader who can keep pace with Dr Fraser in otological literature. No aspect of the subject has escaped him and his handling of it in the *Annual* is, if possible, better than ever. Mr Wright has taken over Dr Watson-Williams' responsibility for laryngology and rhinology, and has striven well to keep up to the standard set by his predecessor.

This issue is not merely "excellent in parts," it is good through and through.

J. DUNDAS-GRANT.

*Block Anæsthesia and Allied Subjects, with Special Chapters on the Maxillary Sinus—Tonsils—and Neuralgias of the Nervus Trigem-
inus.* By ARTHUR E. SMITH, D.D.S., M.D., Oral Surgeon to Frances Willard Hospital and to House of Good Shepherd, Chicago. 595 Illustrations. 1921. London: Henry Kimpton.

In a foreword to this book, C. N. Johnson, Chicago, writes: "He who reads the book will be more deeply impressed, than he ever was before, with the breadth and scope of local anæsthesia." Certainly Dr Smith goes into the whole subject very thoroughly and clearly.

The first 300 pages of the book are devoted to history and methods of anæsthesia—general and local—a very full account of the anatomy of the nerves of the head and neck, with exceptionally clear illustrations and photographs of "wet" specimens—the description of the fifth nerve occupying 100 pages—a discussion on the armamentarium required and the solutions advisable for use in block anæsthesia. The author recommends the use of procaine suprarenin Ringer solution; for convenience he has this made up in tablet form containing gr. 1/1600 suprarenin, gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ procaine, which in 1 c.c. water gives 2 per cent. solution of procaine in a Ringer isotonic vehicle.

There is perhaps too much repetition in these pages, and too much space taken up with the chemical, commercial, and even national side of the subject.

Dr Smith emphasises repeatedly that successful nerve blocking by the perineural method can only be acquired by careful, persistent study of the anatomy of the parts involved, solutions used, and appliances necessary.

In a section on tonsillectomy, by which the author means dissection of tonsils, as opposed to tonsillotomy, which term he applies to the guillotine operation under a general anæsthetic, he suggests blocking the pharyngeal and tonsillar plexus through the anterior tonsillar pillar, and blocking Meckel's ganglion by the external route through the

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mucous membrane distal to the third molar, making no mention of the nasal route adopted by Sluder.

In this method of anæsthetising the tonsil he hopes to obtain a field free from spread of infection such as one might get in the infiltration method, and also very little bleeding during the operation, due to the action of the procaine and adrenalin a little distance from the actual area operated upon.

One chapter deals fully with the surgery of the antrum, the operations intra- and extra-nasal being very well illustrated.

Block anæsthesia for mastoid and intracranial operations is fully described. The various forms of trigeminal neuralgia are discussed with details of alcohol block injections.

The book is written for laryngologists, dentists, and students. But it is a collective work, putting local anæsthesia in an altogether new light, and it is extremely valuable as a book of reference for the anatomist, surgeon, and teacher.

G. EWART MARTIN.