

of its popularity. The new edition has been thoroughly revised by Dr. Logan Turner, and the book retains all its old characteristics, which made it *par excellence* the best small book for students.

We will continue to recommend it at our nose throat and ear clinics as the most suitable book for beginners.

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*Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.* For the Student and Practitioner. By DR. GEORGES LAURENS. Authorised English Translation of the Second Revised French Edition by H. CLAYTON FOX, F.R.C.S. (Ireland). Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1919.

THIS is a text-book for students, and more particularly for general practitioners. The author's main idea is that all practitioners should be able to see into the ear, nose and throat, and to make a simple diagnosis. He lays down the simplest technique, and shows that it is within the compass of every doctor. A quotation from the Foreword by Dr. Dundas Grant expresses the aims and objects so clearly that, without apology, it is quoted here:—

“It has been said that to command success one must not only be industrious, but must have an almost ignominious love of detail. This is particularly true of such a ‘special’ department of medicine as oto-rhino-laryngology, where attention to some little technical detail often makes the difference between hitting and missing the mark. The general practitioner is apt to miss the mark he might otherwise hit owing to the want of attention to the little details which form such an important element in the specialist's stock-in-trade, and thereby to lose confidence, and even interest, in the management of ‘special’ cases.

“These details are described with almost meticulous minuteness by Dr. Georges Laurens in the work of which this is a translation, and this gives the book a value which is peculiarly its own. The instruction conveyed

in this condensed form is, indeed, to be found scattered in various admirable treatises of British authorship, but in none is there the same detailed formulation of 'What not to do,' and 'What to do,' such as the practitioner particularly requires.

"The carrying out of the instructions is described with that minute clearness for which the French mind seems specially constituted, and with a wealth of illustration which makes mistakes almost impossible."

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*X-Ray Observations for Foreign Bodies and their Localisation.* By CAPT. H. C. GAGE, A.R.C., O.I.P. London: Wm. Heinmann, Ltd. Price 6s. net.

IN a small book of some 83 pages Capt. H. C. Gage treats the subject of *x-ray* localisation very thoroughly. We have read many similar theses, but cannot recollect any better.

All the best methods are accurately described—those of cross-markings—and the various modifications of the Mackenzie Davidson tube-shift plan.

The difficult matter of exact localisation of small foreign bodies in the eye is well detailed. In treating of stereoscopy the author describes a simple method of his own, which is new to us, and has the great advantage of not requiring cumbrous apparatus.

The use of anatomical charts for regional localisation is clearly explained.

The latter portion of the book is concerned with mechanical guides to the extraction of a foreign body—*e.g.*, the compass of Hirtz, Bergonié's vibrator, Sutton's probes and the telephone probe.

The book is amply and well illustrated, but in some of the illustrations the lettering is too small for clearness. The frontispiece shows an admirable piece of localisation and reconstruction of a wound tract,

We can thoroughly commend this small book—written largely on the experience of work at the hospital at Ris Oranges, and originally intended as a chapter in a work which was being compiled for the American Council of National Defence.

The author speaks with experience. Difficulties are not glossed over—they are fairly met.

W. G. H.

*The Use of Colloids in Health and Disease.* By A. B. SEARLE. London: Constable & Co. 1920. Pp. 120.

FOR many years after Graham's fundamental investigations the study of colloids and crystalloids was left entirely in the hands of physicists and physiologists. It gradually became plain that organic tissues are essentially colloidal in nature, and that, in truth, all life processes go on in a colloidal system. Blood, for example, is a typical complex colloidal fluid. The colloidal state is a condition in which matter is in an extremely fine state of subdivision, one which, accordingly, provides a large surface field of action wherein lies an increased potentiality for chemical energy. Colloidal systems are relatively unstable, and are very sensitive to slight changes in their surroundings.

By degrees, he thought dawned upon medical men that certain drugs, when brought into the colloidal state, might exhibit different and more active properties than when in the massive state.

Following this clue, numerous investigations have been carried out within the last ten years upon the therapeutic action of colloidal medicines, and strikingly successful results have been claimed and, we believe, obtained.

The present compact volume is based upon a lecture delivered at the request of the Chadwick Trustees, and forms one of a series of works published under their auspices. The preparation of artificially produced colloids which are stable when introduced into the human

organism is quite recent, and the late Mr. W. Crookes (son of Sir William Crookes) was the first (1910-13) to show how to efficiently prepare stable and isotonic colloidal sols.

Dr. Searle has written this book to popularise among the medical profession the utilisation of colloids, both in health and disease. The book is well worthy of close attention, and we cordially recommend it to our readers as a sane and rational account of a new and important branch of therapeutics and public health.

Some of the modern, practical and valuable methods of purifying sewage depend upon the properties of colloids.

The powerful germicidal action of infinitesimal amounts of certain metallic collosols has been satisfactorily proved by Mr. Crookes and others, and the practical application of this interesting fact has led to astonishingly successful results.

Three remarkable cases, culled from Sir Malcolm Morris's practice, are quoted in detail, and demand serious consideration. They were all cases of severe eruptions of boils and multiple deep abscesses, and the drug was administered intramuscularly (3 c. c.), with immediate and striking satisfactory results.

Colloidal manganese has proved specially valuable among the metallic collosols.. "The rapidity of its action, combined with the saving of dressings, render the use of this form of manganese very attractive in deep-seated coccogenic lesions. In most cases, one injection is sufficient."