

REVIEWS.

Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear, for Practitioners and Students.

By W. G. PORTER, M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). Second edition.

Revised by P. McBRIDE, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.S.E.

Seventy-seven illustrations, forty-four in colour. PP. xvi + 280.

Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1916.

THE second edition of Dr. Porter's little work sustains well the high opinion which we expressed concerning it in 1913. Its author, absent abroad in the service of his country, has been fortunate in securing the services of so eminent a physician as Dr. McBride to revise his second edition. The book now contains reference to suspension laryngoscopy, additions to vestibular reactions, and a number of therapeutic suggestions and pathological observations.

The only criticism that we have to offer is that the remarks upon the causation of deaf-mutism require some modification before they can claim to be an accurate exposition upon the subject.

Dr. Porter's book is one of the most complete and accurate handbooks on the subject that we possess, and reflects great credit upon its author.

Macleod Yearsley.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie du Médecin Praticien. Par Dr. GEORGES

LAURENS. Deuxième Edition. 440 pages. Avec 593 figures

dans le texte. Paris: Masson et Cie., 120 Boulevard Saint Germain, 1916. Prix 8 fr.

Among the many things they do better in France, it would seem, we must now include the making of practical handbooks for general practitioners of medicine—that is to say, if this book is any indication of the general run of French manuals. As a matter of fact, however, we suspect the merits to be personal rather than national, for those who are acquainted with Dr. Georges Laurens' "*Chirurgie Oto-Rhino-Laryngologique*"—the first book on the operative surgery of our special regions ever published—will at once recognise in this compact little handbook the same clearness and cleanness of statement as in the older volume, together with a similarly lavish use of appropriate diagrams. Indeed, so plentiful are the illustrations that by merely "looking at the pictures" it is possible to follow quite closely, and to benefit very fully from, the author's descriptions and instructions. For this reason we go so far as to recommend the book not only to those who can read French, but also to those who cannot. And although it is intended primarily for general practitioners, still we cannot but remark that those of our readers who have any teaching of their special work to carry out will find these diagrams to be most welcome additions to their repertory of class-room and blackboard pictures. A further advantage is that as most of them are simple line drawings they can be copied with great ease. The gift of thus conveying information pictorially is possessed by Dr. Laurens in the highest degree, and a striking example of this singular talent is evident on p. 309 of the book, where three simple figures suffice to tell the whole tale of the opening of a retro-pharyngeal abscess in an infant.

That the book in many directions manifests the defects of its qualities is no more than we should expect to find. It is, to be sure, a little too dogmatic, a little too precise, a little too rigid in its opinions and regula-

tions. But here and there, also, one does feel rather surprised at the advice given. Thus, on p. 321, the practitioner is instructed in a "Rule," with all the emphasis of heavy type, never to employ a tonsillotome, the morcelleur being recommended in its stead. Tonsillectomy receives no mention at all. But all this is merely the way in which the author removes the fear of post-operative hæmorrhage from the troubles that beset the path of the occasional operator!

We commend strongly the author's plan of inserting a section, in the "treatment" of each disease, dealing with "what to avoid," as well as one of "what to do." Among the former, in the case of acute purulent otitis media, we read: "Do not look upon this disease as a simple malady which always gets well of its own accord." And in the same connection we are warned not to "infect the ear with polychromatic mixtures, so-called analgesics and antiseptics," or to prescribe injections before the membrane is ruptured. Moreover, the thoroughly sound and sensible teaching is promulgated to open the membrane early and not to wait until it ruptures spontaneously.

But the book is full of good advice, clearly enunciated, and, as a rule, based upon orthodox and well-tried principles.

We were almost persuaded to be enthusiastic in our praise, but that is merely the effect of the wonderful series of diagrams.

There is no index.

Dan McKenzie.

The Auditory Organ in War Time. By E. J. MOURE and P. PIETRI.
Paris: L. Fournier, 1916.

This pamphlet, reprinted from the *Archives de Médecine et de Pharmacie Militaires* (June and August, 1916), is an elaborate essay divided into two parts. The first deals with "labyrinthism" and functional examination; the second with cerebral deafness, malingering, and exaggeration. The authors point out the necessity of very great care in physical and functional examination and in obtaining every possible information as to original causation, etc. They advocate repeated examinations, static and auditory, of the organ of hearing by the most recent methods, considering such examinations as necessary and even indispensable for the detection of conscious or unconscious aggravations by the patient or to bridge the *lacunæ* of earlier investigations. The expert otologist will find that in cases of injury of the ear, the importance of the blow, or of the shell shock, is not always in relation with the auditory and static disorders. The authors deprecate undue precipitancy in diagnosis—"Review in six months or a year for a definite opinion" is the rubric upon which they insist.

Macleod Yearsley.

THE LATE DR. JULES BROECKAERT.

IN addition to what was intimated in our last issue, we learn that the movement for subscriptions from the Otological and Laryngological Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine was started by Sir Felix Semon, who laid the state of matters before the President of the Section, and at the same time subscribed five guineas.

We understand at the same time that Sir Felix applied to Dr. Emil Mager, of New York, and to Prof. Burger, of Amsterdam, to interest