

## Reviews of Books

out very clearly the various stages in its evolution, and emphasises the fact that success has gone along the lines of earlier diagnosis of the disease and improvement in operative technique. In the latter Dr Moore has taken a prominent part in developing the instrumentarium, and we have in the work a résumé of his experience "in performing or co-operating" in over fifty cases of laryngo-fissure. The description of the operation is therefore all that can be desired—well illustrated, so that it can be easily followed, and full of practical detail. The chapters on resection of the growth and post-operative hæmorrhage are especially good. A valuable feature of the book is a copious bibliography.

Dr Moore has done well to set out clearly the importance of early diagnosis in this insidious disease and the significance of persistent hoarseness as a symptom. He quotes the opinion of an authority to the effect that for late recognition the fault lies at the door of the general practitioner, who does not take sufficient notice of early symptoms; but it is a common experience that patients, at least of the hospital class, do not seek advice until the disease is well advanced. We are not quite convinced of the value of legislative protection which Dr Moore is anxious to extend to "the uneducated and credulous public," who treat their throat ailments through advertisements in the lay press. It would, perhaps, be a counsel of perfection to urge that patients of middle age, with hoarseness of six weeks' standing, should undergo a laryngoscopic examination, for many might doubtless feel happier if Manuel Garcia had been strangled in his cradle. The true way is to enlist the co-operation of the general practitioner, who is, after all, the main channel for enlightenment of the public, and we regard Dr Moore's excellent book as a finger-post in that direction.

D. R. PATERSON.

*Handbuck der Ärztlichen Erfahrungen im Weltkrieg, 1914 to 1918.*

Band VI. Gehörorgan, Obere Luft und Speisewege. Edited by OTTO VOSS and GUSTAV KILLIAN. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1921.

This volume, dealing with the ear and upper air and food passages, is the sixth of a series of nine, which, under the general editorship of Professor Otto von Schjerning, represents the medical and surgical experience in the Great War from the German point of view. The volume under review is the work of the two editors, Professors Voss and Killian, together with a number of other oto-laryngologists, such as von Eicken, Kahler, Gutzmann, and Stenger, whose names are well known in this country. The book comprises 341 large pages of text and includes an index and upwards of 80 illustrations.

The first portion, which deals with the ear, contains besides sections

## Reviews of Books

on the injuries and organic diseases of the organ resulting from military service, chapters also on the functional diseases, aggravation and simulation and the reciprocal relationships between old disease and war injuries.

In the second portion the first five chapters are concerned with the injuries of the nose and throat, together with the accessory sinuses, trachea, and œsophagus, while the last two chapters deal with injuries of the nerves supplying the upper air and food passages, and the disturbances of voice and speech occurring in the wounded.

Rupture of the tympanic membrane was of such frequency as to have constituted as much as 6.4 per cent. of the total war injuries; and among injuries of the organ of hearing itself it held the second place, being surpassed only by damage to the inner ear. It was met with in powerful concussion of the cranial bones without any demonstrable lesion in the neighbourhood of the ear, while severe gunshot wounds with extensive destruction of bone close to the ear were sometimes unaccompanied by any damage to the membrane.

Abscess of the brain proved to be much more frequent after gunshot wounds of the accessory sinuses than was expected in the early days of the war. It was found in 30 per cent. of 150 autopsies on cases of this nature, while it occurred in 5 per cent. of 200 who recovered. Probably the latter figure is too small, as, owing to its characteristically symptomless course it would, in some cases, not become evident until long after the patient had passed out of the original observer's care. In one case of Weingaertner's the abscess remained latent for two and a half years. The manifest stage usually begins suddenly, and often apparently as a result of some other infection such as pneumonia. In the absence of early evacuation, either spontaneous or operative, rupture into the ventricle and meningitis follow very rapidly, and the manifest is often also the terminal stage.

Killian lays stress on the value of the X-rays in gunshot wounds of the larynx, both in order to disclose small particles of metal, and also to determine the nature of the damage to the thyroid and cricoid cartilages, and alterations of the lumen of larynx and trachea.

Disturbances of speech and voice are dealt with by Gutzmann in a long and interesting chapter, his observations being based on a material of over 1000 cases. He describes in detail his methods of re-education, and gives a large number of case histories.

It may be of interest to note that the large portion of the volume for which Professor Killian was responsible both as editor and author, represented his last contribution to medical literature. He died on the 24th of February 1921, after having almost completed the revision and correction of the manuscripts.

THOMAS GUTHRIE.