

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Handbook of Tropical Fevers. Jewell and Kauntze. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1932. (Pp. 448, 92 figures. 16s.)

The number of books on tropical diseases is growing every year, and one wonders whether there is room for yet another. Drs. Jewell and Kauntze have issued a handbook on tropical fevers which they claim to have written as "suitable for handy reference for practitioners in the tropics, and for medical men in more temperate climates who may be called upon to treat tropical fevers in patients who have been abroad. We have endeavoured to make the chapters as practical as possible, and in particular we have been careful to emphasise a fact so often lost sight of in these days, that the results of clinical examination are of the utmost importance in diagnosis, and cannot be superseded by laboratory tests."

With this object in view we have read the book with very great interest. The authors have succeeded in their aim to a large extent. This book appears to contain a very well balanced account of the main diseases in the tropics which produce fever.

We are naturally most interested in the chapter dealing with leprosy. There are few accounts which give the practitioner a really well balanced view of the disease, and Drs. Jewell and Kauntze have presented a reasoned account of the disease which should be of very great help to those practising in the tropics. Unfortunately, as is so often the case today, by the time a book is written, parts of it become out of date, and in this connection in the treatment of leprosy more stress is laid on the intramuscular and subcutaneous methods of injection, which were chiefly in vogue up to a year or so back. The book was in the press by the time the intradermal method was widely advocated, and unfortunately it has only been possible to add a footnote. In future editions this will undoubtedly be remedied. Under the Description of Drugs used in Leprosy the usual confusion is seen with regard to definitions. Chaulmoogra oil is the popular name for remedies generally used in leprosy. Even in the old days we believe that most of the so-called chaulmoogra oil was really *hydnocarpus* oil, and it is time that the former word was dropped out of our vocabulary altogether.

The illustrations in the book are on the whole fairly satisfactory, except the examples in the section on leprosy. There are much better illustrations available, and we suggest that a good deal of improvement could be made in this section.

All those working in the tropics, who wish for a convenient and practical handbook on tropical fevers, could not do better than peruse this volume.

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