

SURGICAL AFTER-TREATMENT. By L. R. G. CRANDON, M.D., Assistant in Surgery at Harvard Medical School, and ALBERT EHRENFRIED, M.D., Assistant in Anatomy at Harvard Medical School. Second edition. Pp. 831; 264 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1912.

THE success which this work has had causing a revision and second edition in so short a space of time, is commentary enough upon its need and value.

As its name implies, this is simply an after-treatment to surgical procedures and as such should prove of the greatest value not to surgeons alone, but to those also who not being surgeons are left in charge of cases when the services of the surgeon are no longer available. This is especially true if the case has been left under the care of a practitioner who has not had any recent surgical experience.

The authors have divided the book into two parts. In the first there are thirty-nine chapters devoted to the care of the patient and the alleviation of various symptoms. Here many practical points are brought up which the young house surgeon is only too apt to leave to the nurse and which the busy practitioner out of touch with modern hospital methods is often at a loss to know how to handle.

The subject of the treatment of the patient after the administration of an anesthetic and the various methods for relieving the nausea and vomiting and the accompanying thirst are carefully taken up. The manner of giving enteroclysis is correctly shown, and similar treatments are likewise elucidated, all of which are rational and good. In addition, the illustrations which accompany the descriptions are excellent and are of the greatest practical assistance in making the text clear.

Not only to the physician will these chapters in the first part of the book be of use, but to the nurse as well, especially should she happen to be one who has had only a limited training in the care of the sick.

The discussion of bandaging, though brief, is to the point, and covers most of the important facts upon that subject which are essential in such a work.

There are certain chapters in this section such as Foreign Bodies Left in the Abdominal Cavity, Adhesions, and Preparation of the Patient for Operation, which hardly come within the scope of a book upon surgical after-treatment, and which could well be omitted and the book improved by thus having its bulk diminished.

In the second part the remaining fourteen chapters of the book with the exception of the last two, are devoted to various operations and their after-treatment. In these chapters the authors are clear and concise and do not confuse the reader by too many

methods, usually limiting themselves to one good method of treatment. Here, too, the illustrations are numerous and well chosen and greatly add to the text.

Very carefully and completely are the various parts of the body, with the operations peculiar to each, taken up and systematically discussed.

The last chapter but one is devoted to Therapeutic Immunization and Vaccine Therapy and has been most ably presented by Dr. George P. Sanborn, but is somewhat out of place in a work designed primarily for the practitioner rather than the specialist.

Throughout the whole work the authors have maintained an unusually high standard, and such a book cannot help but be of the greatest assistance to anyone who wishes to keep up with modern methods of surgical after-treatment.

F. P., Jr.