

Artificial Pneumothorax—By Edward N. Packard, M.D., John N. Hayes, M.D., Sidney F. Blanchet, M.D., et al. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1940. 300 pp. Price, \$4.00.

Drawing largely from their own extensive experience among a fairly large and varied group of patients, 17 Saranac Lake physicians, under the leadership of an editorial committee of the Trudeau Foundation, have written the 19 chapters in this handbook on the practical application of artificial pneumothorax in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

A major proportion of all patients in tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoria are now receiving artificial pneumothorax treatment. The literature on the subject is extensive. There has been considerable talk about the successes, failures, and vicissitudes of the treatment. A controversy is raging in tuberculosis circles about case fatality rates, with emphasis on the part played by surgical intervention in treating the disease. Varying technics are in use. Thus the handbook is timely.

The volume is an orderly presentation of the case for artificial pneumothorax. There is a studied sequence of subject material. Collateral items are given their proportionate position in the text.

From a historical review in the first chapter the volume proceeds through the selection of cases, technic of operation, complications and accidents occurring during the course of treatment, duration and termination of treatment, and, finally, the results of treatment by artificial pneumothorax. Interspersed are excellent chapters on the physiology of artificial pneumothorax, the value of the x-ray in this form of treatment, a description of the apparatus used, and sections on cardiac disturbances arising in the course of treatment, pathology, and thoracic surgery in relation to artificial pneumothorax.

Although the chapters were written by individual contributors there is a continuity significant of the effort of the editorial board to unify the whole subject without losing the individuality of the various authors' statements.

Especially valuable are the résumés at the conclusion of the chapters and the up-to-date references which have been very carefully selected. Indices of authors and subjects conclude the volume.

Noteworthy is the splendid reproduction of roentgenograms. The typography and format are excellent. This book is a valuable addition to medical literature and is a fine text for teaching purposes as well as an excellent handbook for tuberculosis specialists and general practitioners.

BERNARD S. COLEMAN

Living—By Thurman B. Rice. Chicago: Scott, Foresman, 1940. 464 pp. (24 pp. of ills.). Price, \$2.25.

"It is the purpose of this text that the student may be helped in the immensely important project of living in a way that will give him the maximum of enjoyment, efficiency and happiness." The book is characterized by several features, not the least important being the author's style of presentation of subject matter in a manner which is likely to hold the reader's interest.

The book of 38 chapters is divided into three parts: Personal Hygiene, Mental Hygiene, and Environmental Hygiene. Each part is preceded by a separately numbered set of pages of effective photographs accompanied by brief captions and descriptive text and printed on paper especially selected for clear reproduction of the illustrations. The pages of these three introductory sections are also apparently used elsewhere, separately bound, as a special bulletin. Effective chapter headings and numerous subheadings together with appropriate illustrations throughout the

book, add to the clarity of presentation.

The author has endeavored to break away from the structural or anatomical method of teaching hygiene—

The body is so extraordinarily complex that the liberal arts student can gain no adequate notion of the real mechanism of his body in the time that he may reasonably be expected to spend in studying it. Nor is it necessary that he should. . . . For the purposes of hygiene we need a general understanding of the body but hardly need all the academic and technical details, which are after all the province of the technically trained physician or dentist.

Health is defined as

A state in which by one means or another our hereditary bodies and minds have been brought into such a relation to all these external factors that we are able to live comfortably, efficiently, and reasonably long in the environment about us.

This book contains a wealth of practical information ably presented for the college student. A skillful instructor, aided by this text, should be able to conduct a course filled with lively discussion and lasting values to assist college students "in learning the fine art of living." IRA V. HISCOCK

Chemotherapy and Serum Therapy of Pneumonia—By Frederick T. Lord, M.D., Elliott S. Robinson, M.D., Ph.D., and Roderick Hefron, M.D.
New York: Commonwealth Fund, 1940.
174 pp. Price, \$1.00.

During the decade of 1930-1940 there was a steady and marked increase in our knowledge of the pneumococcus and the treatment of pneumococcal pneumonia. The entire concept of the disease was changed and incidentally the mortality rate from pneumonia decreased progressively. While these advances have been achieved through the careful work of many investigators in different medical centers, it is more than a coincidence that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health undertook in 1931, with the aid of the

Commonwealth Fund, a special comprehensive study of pneumonia. The group of investigators associated in this study made many contributions of a fundamental scientific nature and extended the influence of this increased knowledge in a very practical way to the general practitioner by means of a series of publications in book form beginning in 1936. This is the third of these books.

The book is designed first, to emphasize the fact that the successful control of pneumonia is a community problem and indicates the responsibilities of local health departments in providing adequate laboratory facilities for the accurate diagnosis of pneumonia. A very timely factor is the amount of space and emphasis given the necessity for and the technic of typing of the pneumococcus. There has been a general tendency this past year to consider typing unnecessary since the advent of chemotherapy. The fallacy of such a view is read between the lines in the discussion of the epidemiology of the various types, the prognosis of the different types, and the indications for more intensive treatment of certain types.

The second purpose of the book is to present a summary of the results of both serum therapy and chemotherapy, as reported in the literature in the past few years. Some attempt is also made to compare the results of the two methods of treatment together with a comparison of the hazards incurred with the use of each agent. The most approved technics for the use of serum and drug are presented in detail.

The final chapter gives the suggestion which is prevalent among the large pneumonia clinics that a combination of both drug and serum is probably the treatment of choice in order to secure the lowest mortality rate.

This book condenses in a remarkable way the maze of scientific advances and