Radium Therapy. By Frank Edward Simpson, A.B., M.D., Professor of Dermatology, Chicago Policlinic; Adjunct Clinical Professor of Dermatology, Northwestern University Medical School; Attending Dermatologist to Mercy Hospital, Alexian Brothers Hospital, Henrotin Hospital, etc.; Former President, American Radium Society; Former Vice-Chairman, Section of Dermatology and Syphilology, American Medical Association; Director of the Frank Edward Simpson Radium Institute. 391 pages, with 166 original engravings. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1922. Cloth, \$7.00 net.

This monograph by Dr. Simpson evidences the very mature experience he has had in the practical use of radium covering a period of several years, and reflects much credit in showing how thoroughly conversant he is with radium therapy in its various ramifications.

The first chapters take up the history of radiant energy, the x-ray being given first mention as the pioneer in this field. The discovery and isolation of radium is given due consideration. The physics and biological effects of radium are dealt with rather comprehensively. This is the foundation of the intelligent use of radiant energy, and if there is any criticism that might be made with reference to Dr. Simpson's book it is that he does not also consider the physics and biological effects of the x-rays as well. However, this could hardly be considered a just criticism, as he has absolutely confined his remarks to his text.

Dr. Simpson advises the treatment of epithelioma of the lower lip, "the use of from 200 to 300 mc. of radium. He says, further: 'One should radiate an area extending several centimeters beyond the visible disease. Certain tumors should be attacked from the superior, the internal and the external aspect of the lip. Six hundred mc. hours may be given to an area of 4 square centimeters.' There is no criticism of this method of treatment so far as its merit is concerned, but in order to do this it is necessary to have either an emanation plant or to possess at least 200 to 300 milligrams of radium element. Furthermore, even with this quantity of radium, it requires from three to four days of continuous treatment to complete the one application. Therefore, it is hardly practicable as a routine treatment except where radium is available and even then its practicability is questionable as compared to the judicious use of radium and x-rays in combination. By using both radium and x-rays the length of treatment can be very materially shortened and the use of radium may be effectively used, and a much larger number of people may be benefited than would otherwise be possible at the present time. Furthermore, the superiority of radium used alone in such cases has not been proven. Dr. Simpson further says: 'Radium treatment is probably the method of choice in the treatment of leukemia at the present time. It sometimes succeeds in producing remissions when all other methods, including the use of benzol and x-rays, have failed.' This is a matter of opinion. Some of the best workers are using x-rays from choice with apparently just as good results and much less trouble to the patient. In a large number of conditions that are more or less amenable to radiation treatment, radium pre-eminently occupies first place, among which may be mentioned carcinoma involving the uterus, bladder, larynx, esophagus, etc.; also, in cases of malignancy in which the implantation of radium is desirable, as in recurrent carcinoma of the breast.

It is impossible in a book of this character and of this size to discuss in detail the various steps of treatment, and the pathology incident to the various conditions considered, yet the principal points are well brought out.

As a general text book dealing solely with the therapeutic application of radium, this volume fills a vacancy that has heretofore existed in American medical literature. The conservative tone of the book, coming from a man of Dr. Simpson's experience and reputation, together with the excellent illustrations showing cases both before and after treatment when possible, will doubtless tend to dispel the skepticism that exists in certain quarters, and at the same time mitigate undue enthusiasm that has been engendered by the extravagant claims of medicine that have appeared in the hands of inexperienced workers. A very complete bibliography is appended which should serve a useful purpose to those who are especially interested in the subject.

The International Medical Annual. A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index. Fortieth Year. New York: William Wood & Co., 1922. Cloth, \$5.00.

From the forty years of service to the profession, this excellent work is generally known and appreciated. The introduction contains a review of the most important facts in all branches of medicine that have appeared in medical literature during the past year. The Dictionary of Practical Medicine, by many eminent contributors, includes every phase of medicine. It affords one an ideal means of reviewing medical progress.

A Manual of Clinical Laboratory Methods. By Clyde Lottridge Cummer, Ph.B., M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology, School of Medicine, Western Reserve University; Associate Clinical Pathologist, the Lakeside Hospital; Director of Medicine and Venereal Physician, St. John's Hospital; Director of Laboratories, St. Alexis Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio. Illustrated with 136 engravings and 8 plates. 484 pages. New York and Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1922. Cloth, \$5.50.

In his preface the author states that the manual is written for students and practitioners and that his aim has been to present the laboratory methods in concise and accessible form. In this he has succeeded, for the book is so arranged that it is easily used as a text book by the student or as a working manual by the practitioner.

The author has adopted the plan of treating each subject under the following headings: outline of routine examinations, description of simple qualitative methods frequently employed, description of quantitative methods or those of intricate technique, and discussion of findings in various morbid conditions.

Certain sections are not covered in the same detail as others. The section on disease in which the blood contains parasites is not up to the standard of the rest of the book.

A full bibliography of text books and monographs is added which will be of great value to the student.

Hypertensia and Hyperplexia. A Clinical, Pathological and Experimental Study. By H. Hasty Shaw, M.D., F.R.C.P. Oxford Medical Publications. 191 pages, illustrated. New York: The Oxford Press, 1922. Cloth, \$6.50.

This is the first edition of a book on a subject full of much interest and many problems. Much has been written on high blood pressure, its significance and management. Since the kidneys have been accused of being responsible for most idiopathic hypertensions, this work is of special interest. In section I, the clinical reports and pathological findings in a large series of cases are carefully presented and tabulated. Section II contains an analysis of clinical and pathological details of the 47 cases studied, with notes on modes of death, as uremia, terminal infection, cardiac failure, etc. Section III contains some interesting observations and of idiopathic cardiac hypertrophy. The author's conclusions are that kidney changes are not universal findings in hypertension; that probably some toxic substances not yet found may later be identified in the blood, and that hypertension should probably be designated as a disease sui generis.

Other Books Received

Annual Report of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service of the United States. For the Fiscal Year 1921. With charts and diagrams. 429 pages. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1922.

Practical Organotherapy: The Internal Secretions in General Practice. By Henry R. Harrower, M.D. Third edition, rewritten and enlarged. Octavo, 416 pp. Glendale, Calif.: The Harrower Laboratory, 1922. Cloth, \$1.50 net.

Psychology and Mental Hygiene for Nurses. By Mary B. Eyre, R.N., Pres. Col. Board of Nurse Examiners; Former Superintendent of Nurses, Minnequa Hospital, Pueblo, Col.; Former Superintendent of Nurses, St. Luke's Hospital, Denver, Col.; Former Instructor of Nurses, St. Luke's and St. Joseph's Hospitals, Denver, Col.; Former Assistant Inspector of Schools of Nursing, State Board of Health, Calif.; Former Director Course in Public Health Nursing, University of Colorado and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1922.

The Practical Medicine Series. Comprising Eight Volumes on the Year's Progress in Medicine and Surgery. Under the General Editorial Charge of Charles L. Mott, A.M., M.D., Professor of Physical Diagnosis in the Northwestern University Medical School.

Vol. VII, **Skin and Venereal Diseases.** Edited by Oliver S. Ormsby, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases, Rush Medical College, and James Herbert Mitchell, M.D., Assistant Professor and Chief of the Syphilis Clinic, Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases, Rush Medical College, Series 1921. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, 1922.

Vol. VIII, **Of the Same Series: Nervous and Mental Diseases.** Edited by Peter Bassoe, M.D., Associate Professor of Nervous and Mental Diseases, Rush Medical College.

The Pocket Anatomy. By C. H. Fagge, M.B., M.S., London, F.R.C.S. English Edition. 313 pages. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1920.