many instances of accidental and suicidal poisoning. Current medical literature shows that phenol is becoming one of the most common agents of self-destruction, while the extensive use of water-gas greatly increases the list of accidental poisonings." The difficulties and perplexities of the analyst are greatly increased by the absence of tests which are conclusive of the presence of many of these synthetic bodies, and those of the post-mortem examiner rendered only less pronounced through the want of distinctive appearances upon which their action is unmistakably to be based.

In the chapter on the Examination of Blood Stains a brief reference to the use of the precipitin test is made. This test has come, within the relatively short period since its introduction into medicolegal use, of such great importance that a fuller treatment in the volume before us would have seemed advisable. In view of the frequency with which blood stains come up for consideration by the medicolegalist, and the high importance of an indubitable statement as to their nature, minute directions for carrying out the test, its scientific and practical limitations, and perhaps a brief reference to cases in which it has already been employed, might not have been out of place.

In the section on Burns and Scalds the cause of death in severe cases is still given as the extensive loss of the skin surface and interference with the function of secretion and heat regulation. This view is not upheld by more recent studies in which more definite effects are easily ascertained and are sufficient to account for the severe and fatal results. The production of extensive thrombi and their consequences as well as the action of "tissue poisons," the outcome of tissue destruction, are entirely competent to explain the otherwise mysterious symptoms following upon severe superficial burns.

The volume before us has many valuable features that far outweigh the very occasional omissions of more recent knowledge on a few of the subjects included in its scope. It can be recommended in its new edition as heartily as ever in its older editions.

BIOGRAPHIC CLINICS. The Origin of the Ill-health of De Quincey, Carlyle, Darwin, Huxley, and Browning. By GEORGE M. GOULD, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1903.

In this unique little work Dr. Gould not only studies the lessons to be drawn from the lives of the five men whose names appear upon his title-page, but also deduces from the study of their lives the practical points which bear upon the life-histories of all our patients. In each of the instances which Dr. Gould has chosen for his study there is very complete biographical material at hand, from which it is possible to construct an intimate personal history of the various pathological conditions presented. In each instance the cause of the profound gloom which at times enwrapped them, and of their constant complaint of dyspepsia, vertigo, and innumerable other physical ills, the author thinks are distinctly traceable to the eye, stating the reason as uncorrected astigmatism. This theorem he supports by many ingenious arguments.

The only real criticism to our mind which can be offered in contradiction to what Dr. Gould so ably advances is that at times his enthusiasm

has led him to make inferences which we would regard as not wholly supported by the facts at hand; thus in pointing out that the long walks, rides, etc., which always benefited each one of the victims whose case is described in this book did them good by the rest of the eyes which was necessarily induced, we are inclined to think that possibly also the long walks, rides, etc., might be held to have benefited the liver and general condition quite as much as the eyes.

There are a few curious typographical errors. On page 160 Norris and Oliver's *System of Diseases of the Eye* is attributed to Morris and Oliver. On page 184 Dr. Pray is said to have described his test type for the diagnosis of astigmatism in 1869, the bibliographical footnote stating that the paper appeared in *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES* for January, 1867. The book is one of value to all who do literary work, as well as to physicians, and we sincerely trust that it will meet with the favorable reception it most certainly deserves.

F. R. P.

MANUAL OF GYNECOLOGY. By HENRY T. BYFORD, M.D., Professor of Gynecology and Clinical Gynecology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago. Third revised edition, containing 363 illustrations, many of which are original. Pages 598. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1902.

In this edition the author has brought the subject up to date by the addition of much new matter. The field of gynecology is fully reviewed in a manner which will be found quite satisfactory to the medical student and to the busy practitioner who may wish to refresh his memory. The system of marginal notes and the avoidance of repetition by the use of so many text references may be of value to the student who is preparing for an examination, but it is not good literary form, and makes awkward and disjointed reading. The book is extensively and well illustrated; the illustrations of many pathological conditions being selected from the best works on the subject are especially valuable. The teaching is wise and conservative, and while there are many views expressed which are still open to discussion, especially under the head of pathology, still there is little to criticise, and the book is a safe guide for the student and the practising physician, for whom it is intended.

J. B. S.

A MANUAL OF OBSTETRICS FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By W. P. MANTON, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Obstetrics and Professor of Clinical Gynecology, Detroit College of Medicine. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1903.

As an aid to the student or practitioner of medicine, Dr. Manton's book will prove of much value. It is, as its name implies, an epitome or condensation of the essentials of the science of obstetrics, and the author has so compiled his volume as to render it much more complete than it is usual to find such works. A feature which will be found of