THE ILEOCECAL VALVE. By A. H. RUTHERFORD, M.D. (Edin.) Pp. 62; 44 illustrations. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, 1914.

THE contents of this book constitutes a thesis for the M.D. degree submitted to the University of Edinburgh. Its chief interest and value concerns observations on a case with an artificial anus in the cecum 8 centimeters long, through which the ileocecal valve could be seen from time to time and carefully studied. The literature of the subject is reviewed, the valve studied in the dog and in thirty-two human specimens hardened in formalin. An excellent half-tone photographic illustration of each of the thirty-two human specimens is presented, the other illustrations also being good. It is interesting to learn that in addition to preventing regurgitation of feces from the large into the small bowel, the ileocecal valve has a sphincter action like that of the pylorus and internal anal sphincter to regulate the flow of semifluid feces from the small to the large bowel. Of more practical interest is the probability that enemata act not only as a foreign body, but as a stimulus to the peristalsis not only of the large intestine but also of the small intestine. The book is a valuable contribution to the literature. T. T. T.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ANESTHESIA. By CARROLL W. ALLEN, M.D., Instructor in Clinical Surgery in Tulane University. Pp. 625; 255 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914.

THE ever enlarging field which is the subject of this volume is here treated in a thorough and efficient manner. Not only has the author given his readers a clear conception of the methods by which local analgesia may be obtained, but he has given them as well, in the first part of the book, an excellent summary of our knowledge of the character, uses, and relative value of the various substances which have been introduced from time to time for the purpose of producing anesthesia in limited areas of the body. Not the least valuable section of this portion of the book is that which deals with the relative toxicity of anesthetizing agents.

The greater part of the book deals with the methods of securing anesthesia in different parts of the body. The location of the nerve carrying sensory impulses is described in great detail, together with the method of reaching them with the anesthetizing needle. The descriptions are of a character which should enable the average surgeon to perform the operations in question with but little difficulty, provided he has the requisite gentleness and is willing to pay attention to detail.