

REVIEWS.

(1.) *Pharmacology*. By Douglas Cow, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1920. Pp. 132.

(2.) *A Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics*. By the late Rakhaldas Ghosh. Eighth Edition. By B. H. Deare and B. N. Ghosh. Calcutta: Hilton and Co. 1920. Pp. 698.

(3.) *The Extra Pharmacopœia*. By W. H. Martindale and W. W. Westcott. 17th Edition. Vol. I. Lewis and Co. 1920. Pp. 1,115.

(1.) THIS little book is one of a set styled the "Students' Synopsis Series," which is arranged to cover the chief branches of Medicine and Surgery.

It represents condensation carried to its utmost limit, and is essentially a refresher, or cram book for examinations. The information is accurate and up-to-date, and many useful diagrams are interspersed. An elaborate table is supplied of the seats of action of drugs, which is useful for reference.

There is scarcely any allusion to *Materia Medica* in its restricted sense, but a confusing and unnecessary waste of space is occasioned by the printing of intricate chemical constitutional formulæ of organic drugs, which no ordinary student could possibly interpret or remember.

Thus, pp. 28-29 are filled by the graphic formulæ of 16 arsenical derivatives which have been proposed for use from time to time, some of which the reviewer never heard of.

On p. 48 the student is bewildered by the complex graphic formulæ of ecgonin, tropin, cocaine, and atropin.

This book is dedicated "to that great army of medical students, some 80 per cent. of the whole, who in examinations are within measureable distance of the Rubicon that divides the approved from the rejected!"

(2.) THE first edition of this book appeared in 1901, and later editions were favourably noticed in this Journal in 1914 and 1917. We have frequently consulted the 6th Edition, and now welcome the 8th Edition, a sufficient proof of its well-deserved popularity and success. Although not enlarged by a single page, it has been carefully revised.

It is a thoroughly reliable, useful, and up-to-date book, and we can unreservedly recommend it to our readers.

This edition, like its predecessor, is adapted to the last edition of the B.P. For Indian students, especially, it is the best work they could procure, and gives vernacular Indian synonyms for nearly all the drugs in the B.P.

(3.) This amazing and indispensable *multum in parvo* has reached the almost unprecedented dignity of the 17th Edition, and it is safe to prophesy for it a continued and increasing success.

No practitioner, whether physician, surgeon or specialist, can afford to neglect it, and the amount of reliable information compressed into its 1,100 pages is simply marvellous.

The last edition was issued in January, 1915, and the preface to this edition, travelling far outside the usual lines of a preface, is a frank discussion as to how far the war has affected chemical and commercial industries.

It is pointed out how quickly, and unexpectedly, the brilliant synthetic chemists in the German factories, numbering many hundreds, transferred their labours to the manufacture of explosives and poison gases, and how the whole range of inorganic and organic chemistry was ransacked to provide villainous agents of destruction.

Sir Ronald Ross has remarked that Great Britain had reached her lowest point of intellectual development before the war. Surely the chief lesson of the conflict is the urgent need of greater and more widespread scientific education. If this is not seen to at once the nation will lose its right to complain of loss of trade, and the astute and laborious Hun will again succeed in strangling our feeble efforts.

It is needless to enter into any details of the contents of so well-known a book.

Revision has been carried out with scrupulous care and thoroughness, and it is safe to say that no item of scientific interest has escaped the watchful eyes of the authors.

Let every practitioner hasten to provide himself with a copy of this incomparable work, which will prove to him an ever-useful friend and companion.

W. G. S.

Les Antigènes et Les Anticorps. By M. Nicolle, Institut Pasteur. Masson et Cit. Pp. 80. 4 f. 50.

MONSIEUR NICOLLE gives us the substance of the Harben Lectures, delivered before the Institute of Public Hygiene, London, in a short volume. He has succeeded in concentrating his ideas into a short space, and has not attempted to give us the experimental evidence on which they are based. The book has left us with a clear conception of the subject as Monsieur Nicolle sees it. The first chapter is devoted to his definitions and principles of immunity, the second chapter deals with their application to diagnosis, and the last to the therapeutic application. Many of his conceptions are new to us, and they have, we believe, advanced the study of immunity in simplifying the subject. We only wish that Monsieur Nicolle had seen fit to expand his lectures into a more considerable volume. The clarity of the style and the simplicity with which the argument is put are a lesson in themselves. The book should be of value to clinicians and laboratory workers. We can confidently recommend it.

B. S.

Tumours complicating Pregnancy, Labour and the Puerperium, being the Lettsomian Lectures delivered before the Medical Society of London by Herbert Spencer, M.D., B.S. (London), F.R.C.P., Obstetric Physician to University College Hospital. 8vo. London: Harrison and Sims. 1920. Pp. 78.

THIS will prove to be a most useful reference work for those who are investigating the subject of tumours and the pregnant state. We have already read these lectures in the "British Medical Journal," and we welcome the splendid manner in which they have been produced as being an addition to English gynæcological bibliography. The work is a record of the author's experience, extending over 32 years, and the reports of his methods, statistics and of special cases are very valuable, especially as the book is in scholarly English, and makes delightful reading.

B. S.

Modern Surgery, General and Operative. By Professor DA COSTA, Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London. 1920. Pp. 1,650. Price £1 17s. 6d. net.

IN a delightful preface to this, the eighth edition of his well-known text-book, Professor Da Costa completely disarms his critics in advance by pleading the difficulties of adequate revision on active war service. Such a plea was quite unnecessary: rather is he to be congratulated on having omitted so little that might have been overlooked.

Wide and discriminate reading, evincing the most ample knowledge of the literature of his subject, a scrupulous fairness in appraising other men's ideas and methods, even when at variance with his own, a transparent honesty, and complete absence of dogmatism, are the most attractive features of this book. Add to these a trenchant, clear style, with a happy tendency to epigram, and one can understand the pleasure it is to the tired reviewer to turn the pages of such a book as this, with its not infrequent atmosphere of general, extra-surgical culture. Such aphorisms as "a tired mind, like a tired hand, tends to become shaky," "powerful purgatives are powerful depressants," "spare your patients, for Spartans are few," crop up every now and then, with the most refreshing effect, in the midst of other more rigidly surgical information. His advice to the surgeon, in the words of Sydney Smith, "to have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things in order that he may avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything," is amongst the happiest of his references.

We do not know if Dr. Da Costa is an old pupil of Johns Hopkins: his dedication to that school and the chief of its surgical staff, Halsted, would seem to indicate this: and the stamp of "*Aequanimitas*" is readily apparent. His professorial lectures, we feel sure, must be of unusual attractiveness, for the perusal of his book, the crystallisation of much thought and wide knowledge, has been a real pleasure. We are not so sure that, for students in this country, it would pay to read Da Costa for an examination, but of this, at least, we are sure, that the practitioner who is wise or

fortunate enough to possess it will rarely consult its pages without finding the help, and maybe the consolation, he may seek.

The volume is a very large one: 1,650 pages of close print constitute a bulky handful; if a hint might be dropped to author or publisher it would be an advantage rather than otherwise were the ninth edition to appear in two volumes.

W. D.

An Introduction to Midwifery. ARCHIBALD DONALD. 8th edition. Publishers: Griffin. 6/-.

THIS little book, intended only for junior students and midwives, contains a large amount of useful information.

The importance of strict aseptic methods in midwifery cannot be too deeply impressed on the student. For this reason we would like to see the author recommending (1) the use of rubber gloves on *all* occasions; (2) the use of the stylet instead of the finger nail to rupture the membranes.

The "lubrication of the vaginal surface of the perineum with antiseptic lubricant" to minimise tears is a procedure open to criticism. It necessitates frequent insertion of the fingers into the vagina. It also renders possible the use of the contents of the "household vaseline jar" in the absence of the antiseptic lubricant.

Numerous illustrations appear throughout the book. Fig. 42 might be drawn more accurately in order to coincide with the method described in the text.

The chapters on anatomy and physiology should be appreciated by midwives who are usually ignorant of such subjects.

J. T. S.

Women as Army Surgeons. By FLORA MURRAY, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., London.

IF anyone finds the long evenings enforced by the Curfew weigh heavily upon them we advise them to pick up this book, and we guarantee they will not lay it down unfinished. In these days of slackness and world-weariness it brings a real breath of the vigour and keenness of the war. It is the

tale of a great adventure—simply and delightfully told. It is right that it should have been written, if only to put on record the fact that a handful of British medical women, unaided and often sorely hindered by the authorities, took a fully equipped hospital to the front and made a real success of it.

We will not spoil the reader's pleasure by quoting any of the interesting events here—they should be read with the rest and will move alternately to laughter and tears.

A small note of bitterness appears now and then which is rather to be deplored, but there is no doubt these ardent women had a hard battle to fight against prejudice and officialism. The book is written from the Suffragist standpoint, which accounts for it in some measure, and one of the most telling scenes which we cannot refrain from quoting is that when Dr. Garrett Anderson—the old fighter—receives congratulations on the passing of the Bill enfranchising women. The young orderlies were kind and a little patronising. “ ‘ Simply topping about your Bill,’ said the potential voters . . . personally quite untouched by their personal share in it.”

The book may be enjoyed by medical or lay reader, as it touches all aspects of the work, and its author is very much to be congratulated on the work of the hospital in Paris, at the front, and in Endell Street, and also on the interesting book about it which she has given to the public.

Manual of Medicine. By A. S. WOODWARD, F.R.C.P.
Oxford Medical Publications. 2nd edition, 1920. Pp.
xiii + 427.

AFTER a lapse of eight years Dr. Woodward has produced a second edition of his *Manual of Medicine*. As is to be expected, many alterations have been necessitated by the advances of medical science during that period.

The book is well arranged and should prove a popular text book for students as well as a book of reference for practitioners.

Nervous diseases, including a useful chapter on insanity,

so often neglected in similar publications, are well and clearly dealt with.

The section on diseases of Metabolism has been brought up to date in view of the great increase in our knowledge of this branch of medicine since the manual was first published.

Scattered through the volume are numerous useful formulæ.

The publication should be welcomed by those for whom the author intends it.

I. A. O'K.

Handbook for Tuberculosis Workers. By Noel Bardswell, M.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. Published by John Bale, Sons and Danielson, Ltd., London. 1/6 net.

A VERY useful little book, written in non-technical language, of a convenient size and suitable alike to the Tuberculosis officer and the voluntary worker.

Though naturally such large subjects as forms of Tuberculosis Disease, Treatment, Early Diagnosis, Milk, Disinfection, Prevention, Administration, After Care, The Colony, Open-air School, Financial Problems and the Training of Voluntary Workers are only briefly outlined, Dr. Bardswell is to be congratulated on getting a scientific exposition of the main points of the disease into such a limited space.

The booklet is brimful of suggestion for any thoughtful reader.

Diseases of the Eye. By M. S. Mayou, F.R.C.S. 3rd Edition. Henry Frowde, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1920. Pp. xv. + 326.

A THIRD edition is in itself an indication of the popularity which this book enjoys.

We recommend it as an excellent adjunct to clinical lectures on the "Eyes," but as an elementary text-book *per se*, it is somewhat too obscure for the average student.

We think the first two chapters especially suffer in this respect. The former would be greatly improved by a brief reminder of the anatomy of the globe and its surroundings, while the latter on "elementary optics and refraction" might readily contain fuller explanations.

The general get-up of the book is very good: we would especially like to commend the excellent micro-photographs.

The New Physiology in Surgical and General Practice. By A. Rendle Short, M.D., F.R.C.S. 4th Edition. Revised and enlarged. John Wright and Sons, Bristol, 1920. Pp. xi. + 291.

THIS useful summary of recent advances in physiology has been for the most part re-written. The chapter on vitamins is enlarged by references to diseases due to deficiency of fats, proteins and carbohydrates. The grouping of blood donors and the effects of splenectomy are considered. A new chapter on the heart has been added, and that on surgical shock has been thoroughly revised in the light of recent research. Keith's work on the sphincters of the gastrointestinal tract is briefly indicated.

We miss the chapter on acidosis and diabetes, though its substance is to some extent diffused through other parts of the book, and we should welcome a summary of the rapid advances in these subjects in a later edition.

The chapter dealing with the nervous system now includes new facts with regard to reflexes, the double motor path, the visual cortex, and the post-Rolandic area in relation to common sensation.

Chorio-epithelioma Malignum. By Arthur Sunde. 8vo. Emil Moestine Kristians, 1920. Pp. 286.

IN a lengthy illustrated monograph the author deals with this subject from all points of view. He has collected 38 cases of chorio-epithelioma and 240 vesicular moles; of these former 20 were inoperable when admitted to hospital, and 12 of the remaining 18 were cured, *i.e.*, 66 per cent. of cures. In 122

cases of mole which he was able to "follow up," chorio-epithelioma developed in 6, *i.e.*, 5 per cent. The nomenclature is discussed, and Sunde is very insistent that the disease should not be classed under carcinoma. The various theories are considered, especially with regard to the maternal or egg aetiology.

In the investigations 43.6 per cent. were found to proceed

from hydatidiform mole.

29.3 „ „ from abortions.

22.1 „ „ from normal pregnancy.

.5 „ „ from extrauterine pregnancy.

He lays stress on the fact that latency is sometimes marked in the disease. Vaginal hysterectomy is the operation of choice, especially as the regional glands are seldom affected, the metastases usually taking place first in the lungs.

Although it is proposed in the literature that a prophylactic hysterectomy should be done in all cases of vesicular mole the author considers this to be an evil practice.

B. S.

“*The Duodenal Tube and its Possibilities.*” By Max Einhorn. W. B. Saunders and Co., Philadelphia and London, 1920. Pp. 115. 13/- net.

EVER since Kussmaul's initial demonstration in 1867 of the possibilities of the stomach tube, it has been the desire of clinical physiologists to render the contents of the duodenum rich in biliary and pancreatic juices, similarly accessible to investigation. Undeterred by the failures of Boas, Hemmeter, Kuhn and others Einhorn has been patiently experimenting for nearly twenty years with duodenal tubes of various types. In this modest little book he recounts what degree of success has so far attended his efforts, and outlines many possibilities for the research worker and clinician of the future. The distance of the duodenal cavity from the mouth, the tortuous path to be traversed by any instrument intended to enter it, and the question of the permeability of the pyloric canal to solid objects, were the chief mechanical

difficulties to be overcome: several excellent reproductions of *x-ray* plates, showing the Einhorn tube actually in position in the duodenum, are sufficient evidence of the feasibility of access. By means of a heavy bead of glass or porcelain attached to a guiding thread, a tube, swallowed overnight by the patient may be demonstrated by *x-ray* to have passed the pylorus and to be resting in the duodenum next morning: by means of an aspirating pump attached, the duodenal content, uncontaminated by gastric juice, can be drawn off for biochemical investigation: this is the basic idea underlying Einhorn's researches. In three short, but clearly written chapters the difficulties of technique are explained and simplified: the diagnostic significance of the analysis of the duodenal content, and the possibilities of therapeutic direct duodenal lavage or alimentation are convincingly dealt with, within the limits of present-day knowledge. A host of inquiries and experiments still remain unsolved: suffice it for the present that within the scope of little more than a hundred pages, Dr. Einhorn relates his difficulties, and demonstrates the accessibility of the duodenum in the absence of organic pyloric stenosis, thereby opening up a wide field for clinical research of diagnostic and therapeutic importance.

Dr. Einhorn, having reached the duodenum *per vias naturales*, still possesses the explorer's desire to push on. Profiting by his duodenal experience, he has devised many formidable looking tubular apparatus for the like investigation of the lower reaches of the alimentary tract! The clinical use of these latter instruments is likely to be shunned for many a day by all save a few intrepid spirits consumed with an enthusiasm for exploration akin to his own.

W. D.

Aids to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Children.

By John McCaw, M.D., R.U.I., L.R.C.P. Edin. 5th Edition. Pp. 404. London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 1920.

A NEW edition of this useful little member of the "Students Aid Series" is welcome. It is essentially a students'

manual, and is a triumph in what can be accomplished in the way of *multum in parvo*.

It suffers, of course, from the defects of extreme condensation, not only in the small print and absence of plates or illustrations, but also in the effect on the reader. For instance, when thirteen possible causes of rickets are described in little over one small page we are left breathless, so to speak! It is astonishing, however, how much is included and how little left out, and the value of the book is further enhanced by references to literature on each subject.

Lectures on Diseases of Children. By Robert Hutchinson, M.D., F.R.C.P. 4th Edition. London: Edward Arnold, 1921. Pp. 416. Price 21/-.

WE welcome a new edition of this most valuable book. It is wonderful in the course of thirty-one lectures how much ground is covered and how few lacunæ are to be found.

The book is written in the conversational style of lectures, and the customary paragraph headings are absent, but this in a way makes it pleasanter reading, and the graphic pictures impress the mind.

An extra chapter has been added in this edition on obscure fevers, and those on tuberculosis and syphilis written in the light of recent work. The section on infant feeding has also been slightly altered.

We can heartily recommend this book as delightful reading to any member of the profession.

A Short Practice of Midwifery. By Henry Jellett, M.D. 8th Edition. Publishers: Churchill. 18/-.

THE appearance of the 8th edition of this work is sufficient evidence of its well-deserved popularity, and further comment is needless.

The text has been revised and many new excellent illustra-

tions have been added, which will further enhance the usefulness of the book. Attention may be directed to the chapter on pubiotomy. Here the author recommends prophylactic pubiotomy, in suitable cases, about the middle of pregnancy. He describes a new modification in the technique of the operation, and gives special instructions concerning the after-treatment of the patient.

In future editions, some mention might be made of melaena neonatorum, a not uncommon and often fatal condition in infants.

The book, which is most admirably produced, can be recommended with the utmost confidence, as being one of the best on the market.

J. T. S.

Sexual Impotence. By VICTOR G. VECKI. Sixth edition. Saunders and Co. 1920.

THIRTY-TWO years ago Vecki wrote his well-known work on Sexual Impotence, and now the sixth edition is brought out by the author, a book of over 400 pages.

The general practitioner who, consulted by a man sexually impotent, seeks in this book to find the form of impotence, its cause, and the treatment, will probably be disappointed.

To the urologist the book has much of interest, and contains a very large number of useful references.

The author quotes numerous opinions that he either doubts the truth of, or disagrees with altogether; this is apt to leave a sense of uncertainty on the reader's mind, and it would have been better had Dr. Vecki expressed his own views alone, and in a more dogmatic manner.

Treatment is the weakest part of the book. The author hopes that Endocrinology may be of great use—perhaps it may. Methods of treatment for the relief of impotence that offer more hope of success than those at present employed are badly needed.

The book is well printed, written in an easy style, and contains a good index.

L. G. G.

Common Infections of the Kidneys. By FRANK KIDD.
Oxford University Press. 1920.

THIS book by Mr. Frank Kidd gives an admirable account of the signs and symptoms that the colon bacilli can give rise to when they infect the kidney, prostate, bladder, or testis.

That such infections are by no means uncommon, that when they do occur they are often either not recognised or treated incorrectly, makes the value of a work of this kind all the greater.

The style of the writing is good; the author has something to say, and says it in a clear and concise manner; his remarks are backed by a wealth of clinical material.

The book is fully illustrated with coloured plates, photographs of specimens and microphotographs, and is well worth its place on the bookshelf of every medical man.

L. G. G.

Nucleic Acids. By WALTER JONES, Ph.D. Monographs on Biochemistry. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1920. Pp. 150+viii. Price 9/- net.

THIS is the second edition of Professor Walter Jones's authoritative work in Messrs. Longmans, Green and Company's well-known series. It has been brought up-to-date by the inclusion of the author's recent important work on the preparation of the nucleotides and their mode of linkage.

Work on the animal metabolism of the purines has accumulated of late and has led to the separation of man and the ape, who have not the power of converting uric acid into the more soluble allantoin, from the lower animals, who have this power. The subject of nucleic acids is, perhaps, in its present stage of more interest to the biochemist and the physiologist than to the medical practitioner, but there is every reason to hope that the work done on the conduct of these complicated groups will eventually clear

up the mystery which surrounds that aristocrat among diseases, gout.

Dr. Jones's book continues to be the standard work on the nucleic acids and can be strongly recommended as an excellent introduction, text book, and work of reference to an extremely important branch of biochemistry.

Everyday Mouth Hygiene. By JOSEPH HEAD, M.D.,
D.D.S. W. D. Saunders Co., London, 1920. Pp. 67.

THE author of this small book is to be congratulated on its production. It is well printed. The numerous illustrations are very clear, and the reading matter concise and to the point. The subject of mouth hygiene cannot be too frequently or too forcibly brought before the general public or the dental student, for, as the author points out in the opening chapter of the book, "infection of the teeth and gums cause directly, or indirectly, one half of the fatal diseases." We are very pleased to note that Mr. Head lays considerable stress on the importance of the use of dental silk in cleansing the approximal surfaces of the teeth and this with its directions and accompanying illustrations for the use of the silk will be found very useful. We are thoroughly in agreement with the author in his recommendation of the use of a small brush. The vast majority of brushes sold to the public are far too big, and do not give the proper amount of freedom necessary to reach all surfaces of the posterior teeth. We can heartily recommend this book to the dental student, the public in general, and more especially to those in the care of children, for whom we think the book was especially written.

W. S.