NEW EDITIONS.

Outlines of Zoology. By J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., LL.D. Sixth Edition. Pp. xxii. + 855. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1914. Price 12s. 6d. net.

It is hardly necessary to do more than mention the appearance of the sixth edition of this well-known text-book. It has for many years been recognised on all hands as the best small manual of biology in the English language from the pen of a highly gifted biologist and teacher. The student of to-day owes more than he knows to Professor Thomson for providing him with so admirable a text-book.

Defensive Ferments of the Animal Organism against Substances out of Harmony with the Body, the Blood-Plasma, and the Cells; their Demonstration, and their Diagnostic Significance for Testing the Functions of Different Organs. By Emil Abderhalden, Director of the Physiological Institute of the University of Halle a/S. Third Edition. Illustrated. English Translation by J. O. Gavronsky, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.D., Halle a/S, and W. F. Lanchester, M.A. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 1914. Pp. xx. + 242. Price 7s. 6d. net.

Dr. Abderhalden's work on the defensive ferments, culminating in the discovery of the biological test for pregnancy, has excited interest
New Editions

all over the world, and in the pages of this Journal (vide No. for October 1913, p. 362; February 1914, p. 180; and May 1914, p. 440) the main features of this important advance in physiology and diagnosis have been indicated. For those who do not read German easily the English translation of the third edition of Abderhalden’s work by Dr. Gavronsky and Mr. Lanchester will prove a boon; it sets forth a very technical and somewhat complicated subject clearly and in easily-understood terms. For readers who have followed Abderhalden’s researches as they have appeared, the translation of “fremd” (foreign) and “eigen” (inherent or native) by the words “harmonious” and “disharmonious” is rather inconvenient; but it gives perhaps a more correct rendering of the thought underlying the phraseology, and is not therefore to be condemned. It must, however, be borne in mind in reading the book; for the terms “foreign” and “native” to the blood have come already into common use. It cannot yet be affirmed that Abderhalden’s dialysation test is a certain means of picking out pregnancy from other conditions, physiological or pathological, but a knowledge of its nature and technique is essential for the medical man who wishes to be abreast of the latest scientific views of the processes of reproduction and of the means of detecting gestation in its earliest months.

Text-Book of Physiology. By W. H. Howell, M.D., LL.D. Fifth Edition. Pp. 1020. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1913.

Howell’s well-known text-book holds a high place in the esteem of both teachers and students of physiology. The present edition has been carefully revised and brought up to date, and a good deal of new matter has been incorporated, especially in the section on metabolism. We might suggest that the account of the leucocytes might be rewritten with advantage, and that some notice of Edridge-Green’s views on colour vision would be much more useful than the unenlightening theories of Young, Hering, and Franklin. It is not a little remarkable that a text-book on physiology should reach a fifth edition without including an account of voice production.

A Manual of Ambulance. By J. Scott Riddell, M.V.O., M.A., M.B., Ch.B. Sixth Edition. Pp. 254. With 217 Illustrations. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Ltd. 1913. Price 6s. net.

This new edition of a Manual of Ambulance can be confidently recommended to members of voluntary aid detachments; it should also serve as a useful and complete guide to lecturers on the subject. A new chapter describes the work of voluntary aid detachments and their relation to the medical service of the territorial force. Altera-
tions and additions to the text have been made, particularly in the sections on artificial respiration, electrical accidents, and ambulance transport. Many new illustrations have also been added.

A Pocket-Book of Treatment. By R. W. Leftwich, M.D. Second Edition. Pp. 348. London: Edward Arnold. 1914. Price 5s. net. We hail with satisfaction the appearance of a second edition of this handy little volume. A brief though eminently practical account of such general therapeutic measures as diet, baths, climate, etc., is followed by a résumé, in dictionary form, of the treatment of each disease. Numerous prescriptions are given throughout the text, but the pocket-book is more than a mere formulary, and will undoubtedly prove of great service to the busy practitioner.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Among popular books on the subject, Dr. Otis' Tuberculosis: Its Cause, Prevention, and Cure (revised edition, New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1914, §1.25 net) will take a high place. It is intended for laymen, and is an excellent summary of the scientific, personal, and social aspects of the tuberculosis question at the present time. It should be widely read.

As usual, the Transactions of the American Pediatric Society (vol. xxv., American Medical Association Press, Chicago) contains many papers of special interest. At the meeting of which this volume is a record the majority of the papers were on special diseases and cases of importance, and discussions on general subjects, such as feeding, are less in evidence than usual. Most of the articles have already been published in the current journals, but they deserve to be preserved in this convenient form.

The report of a clerical and medical committee of inquiry on Spiritual Healing (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1914, price 1s. net) has already appeared in the current magazines, and is now published as a separate volume. The inquiry was carried out in a scientific spirit, and the conclusions are temperate and such as must be obvious to most sensible people. A serious committee such as this may do some good in the way of counteracting the present tendency to superstition regarding disease, but we are not very sanguine.

The Anatomy of the Brain, by J. F. Burgholder, M.D. (pp. 206, with 40 illustrations, Chicago, G. P. Engelhard & Co., 1912). This book is intended as a guide for the student in the dissection of the brain of the sheep. The text is lucid and it incorporates clear instructions for dissection. As a prelude to the study of either the physiology