NEW BOOKS

A Text-Book of the Surgical Dyspepsias. By A. J. WALTON, M.S., M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Pp. xxi. + 728, with 272 illustrations, London: Edward Arnold and Co. 1923. Price 42s. net.

The scope of this volume is scarcely defined by the title. In reality, the author has produced a text-book on the surgery of the stomach, the duodenum, the biliary passage, the pancreas and visceroptosis. As such the volume is excellent and merits to be widely read.

Each section treats of the surgical anatomy of the parts concerned; the ætiology, the pathology, the symptomatology and the differential diagnosis of the various surgical lesions; and finally of the operative procedures employed. Stress is laid on clinical histories and many illustrative cases are cited. The frequent reference to personal experience considerably enhances the value of the work.

Minor points, there are, which invite criticism. For example, to establish definite syndromes for acute duodenitis and acute duodenal ulcer may be considered premature. All will not agree that the preparation of the mouth in cases of chronic gastric ulcer should be postponed until after operation. In a volume of this magnitude, more space might have been given to mesenteric ileus, which is dismissed in a brief paragraph without reference to treatment. The work, nevertheless, is comprehensive and the teaching essentially sound. The moderate views as to the treatment of visceroptosis especially will meet with the approval of the majority of surgeons.

The author has admirably succeeded in his object, namely, to provide the student and practitioner with a means of keeping abreast of the times. Appended to each chapter is a brief, yet useful bibliography.

Physiotherapy Technic. By C. M. SAMPSON, M.D. Pp. 428, with 85 illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1923. Price 30s.

This work is dedicated to the section of the medical profession that will make most use of it. It is a highly scientific production, giving not only the results of the author's extensive experience while in charge of a War Reconstruction Hospital, but definite and logical reasons for the technic arrived at after a process of trial and error. The whole field of physiotherapy is covered and each method of treatment relegated to its proper place. There is no extravagant claim made for this or for that method of treatment. The author rightly lays great stress upon exact diagnosis and a knowledge of the pathology of the case under treatment.
Only once does the author appear to allow his enthusiasm to overcome his better judgment when he says that the three legs of the tripod are—medicine, surgery, and physiotherapy. He makes out a strong case, however, for physiotherapy, and anyone interested in this subject would do well to secure a copy.

**Rejuvenation: The Duty, the Possibility, and the Means of regaining Youth.** By Dr Jean Frumusan. Translated from the Fifth French Edition by Elaine A. Wood. Pp. viii + 138. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The theme of the writer of this short treatise is not new, but it has the advantage of having been proved to be a sound one in the past. It is that premature senility—in a large section of the community at least—is the result of overindulgence in eating and drinking, combined with indolence as to bodily and mental exertion. The author draws attention to the existing general ignorance of this important fact, and has worked out a system of treatment which has been eminently successful in a large number of cases. He shows how these patients who were apparently passing inevitably into premature senile decay were restored by his treatment to a large measure of youthful activity and the joy of living. The course of treatment is necessarily a stringent one, but he proves that in this case at least the end justifies the means.

The translator has rendered the fifth French edition into clear idiomatic English which it is a pleasure to read.

**A Manual of Histology.** By V. H. Mottram. Pp. 287, with 224 illustrations. London: Methuen & Co. 1923. Price 14s. net.

The aim of the author in writing this excellent little book has been to place before the undergraduate “the ordinary and the commonplace” essentials of histology. In this he has succeeded admirably. The structure of the various tissues and organs is described so clearly, simply and systematically that the beginner cannot fail to grasp the plan on which each organ or tissue is built up. The book is illustrated copiously. At first glance many of the illustrations appear rather crude, but the author has kept them purposely as diagrams in order that the student may understand what to look for under the microscope and without the teacher having to make an explanatory diagram. Our experience agrees with that of the author in that the illustrations in most text-books are confusing to the undergraduate and difficult for him to follow. The book will appeal not only to the undergraduate but to the graduate desiring to revise his knowledge of the histology of the human body. The work concludes by a chapter on the elementary methods of staining and mounting.
specimens. Professor Mottram’s Manual is by far the best one on histology which we have come across in the English language and it will supply the much needed want of a small and lucid text-book on this subject. We recommend it with the greatest confidence to all whose work entails the histological examination of tissues whether healthy or pathological.

NEW EDITIONS

Lippincott's Quick Reference Book for Medicine and Surgery.
Systematised by George E. Rehberger, A.B., M.D. Third Edition revised. Philadelphia and London. J. B. Lippincott Company. Price 63s. net.

This large volume is a monument of industry and patience on the part of the compiler. The aim of the book is to accomplish “a critical sifting of the improved modern literature, a selection of all that is useful and needful in bedside therapeutics, and a rearrangement of this mass of knowledge for purposes of quick reference and individual completeness of treatment of each subject, making it immediately available for practical needs.”

It is intended for the use of the general practitioner who is an isolated country doctor and is confronted with disease in all its manifestations. The author, who states that he has himself been an isolated country doctor, puts himself in the place of the practitioner “when he is actually confronted with a patient having the disease, disorder, or symptom under consideration. A careful history and examination completed, and a diagnosis arrived at, what should be done to cure, or to relieve, the patient, and if the disease is contagious or infectious, what should be done for the safety of society?” To give an example: the patient is suffering from baldness. The practitioner takes down the book, places his thumb over the word “skin” in the series of recesses carved in the margin of the work for convenience in search. This brings him to an alphabetical index of skin diseases where, under the word “baldness,” he is referred to Alopecia. The derivation of the word alopecia is given, also synonyms; and it is divided into for categories. Some nineteen causes of alopecia are named and the common forms are then described; prognosis and treatment being considered and prescriptions given in full. The practitioner will be able to deal with the case after such guidance.

There are other features in the work, such as pharmacologic index, alphabetical list of drugs with doses, actions, etc., and lists of armamentaria for the general surgeon, etc.