AIDS TO PHYSIOLOGY.—By H. Dryerre, Ph.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.S.E. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1931. Pp. vii plus 256, with 57 figures in the text. Price, 3s. 6d. net

Aids to Physiology forms one of the Students' Aid Series. The object of this book, as stated in its preface, is to give the student a survey of the scope of physiology so that he can more profitably utilise the larger textbooks. Students are frequently bewildered by the vastness of the details in ordinary textbooks of physiology. Equally is this the case in chapters dealing with the nervous system. Used thus, as an introduction to the study of physiology, it is a book to be recommended.

The subject matter is brought up to date and much information given in little space. The whole field of physiology is surveyed with the exception of ‘reproduction’ which for some reason is omitted altogether. Two useful tables are given, one on ‘vitamins’ showing their source and properties, and the other on ‘the chief enzymes taking part in digestion.’

A. C. MacG.

MANUAL OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.—By Sir Leonard Hill, M.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Hon. A.R.I.A. Third Edition. Published by Edward Arnold & Co., London, 1931. Illustrated. Pp. 464. Price, 6s. 6d.

This book is designed for the use of the general reader. As accurate an idea of the subject as is practicable within its limited compass has been given to the reader in a clear and concise manner. An exceedingly complex subject, involving an understanding of the structure and functions of the human body with its various organs, requires not only a practical knowledge of the underlying principles of the subject, but also an elementary knowledge of physics, chemistry and anatomy, and the author has done well to include throughout the book a large number of practical experiments that will lead to a better understanding of the subject. For instance, when dealing with the subject of the mechanism of movement, the author has also illustrated its physical aspect, giving information on such subjects as the principle of the lever, the centre of gravity, inertia, friction, etc., and has given examples of the various levers in the body in their scientific order. Similarly, there are lessons in the book dealing with simple chemical experiments, and dissection of the lower animals, such as rabbits, which will greatly help the reader to grasp the subject more scientifically. Technical terms have been avoided as far as possible.

We are of opinion that the book will prove very useful to those for whom it is intended.

J. P. B.

ULTRA-VIOLET THERAPY.—By A. Furness, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), M.D. (Oxon.), London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd., 1931. Pp. xii plus 365. Illustrated. Price, 12s. 6d. net

This book is an excellent and fairly comprehensive review of the subject of light therapy. Physical principles are well set out. The author has wisely stressed the point that ultra-violet radiation, though a specific in rachitic conditions, is in the vast majority of cases a very valuable adjuvant treatment only. Other forms of physio-therapy, such as infra-red radiation and diathermy, are included and the author is grateful for a valuable chapter on the uses of ultra-violet light in diseases of the teeth and gums.

This is, so far as we are aware, the best book in English that has appeared on this subject. Students and general practitioners will find it full of useful information and the specialist in radiology will have a very welcome addition to his bookshelves.

G. G.

AN INTRODUCTION TO HYGIENE.—By W. Robertson, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P. (E.). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1931. Pp. 207. Illustrated. Rs. 4-8. Obtainable from Butterworth and Co. (India), Ltd., Calcutta.

This author's reputation as an administrator, teacher, and author led us to expect something better than this. The information is elementary and in many cases meagre, and mostly uninspiring. The author might have spared us the misprint of sulphones for sulphates in describing the causes of hardness.

The illustrations are good and the book will be found perhaps useful by medical students, purely for examination purposes; but it does not breathe the spirit of modern hygiene.

A. D. S.

HANDBOOK OF SANITARY LAW FOR THE USE OF CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH QUALIFICATIONS.—By B. Burnett Ham, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.). Eleventh Edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., 1931. Pp. xxvi plus 627. Illustrated.

This continues in our opinion to be the most useful handbook on English Sanitary Law for students' use, and for ready reference. The arrangement is both logical and chronological. We know of no other book quite as good. The new matter added in this edition is the Local Government Act of 1929, the Tuberculosis Order and Regulations of 1930, and the Housing Act of 1930. The Local Government Act of 1929 probably constitutes one of the greatest advances in public health administration of recent times; this aspect is hardly emphasised enough in the book. The Housing Act is fully dealt with.

The form, printing, and size are the same, and constitute additional attractions.

Every student of public health should have a copy of this new edition.

A. D. S.

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS. Information Section, League of Nations Secretariat, Geneva, 1931. Pp. 27.

This is a small brochure of 27 pages containing an account of the activities of the League of Nations in the question of the limitation of the manufacture of narcotic drugs. A conference of the representatives of different nations was convened at Geneva in May, 1931, to discuss the problem of suppressing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and to formulate, if possible, a practicable scheme whereby the manufacture of these drugs might be limited to the medical and scientific needs of the world. A number of proposals and schemes were submitted and discussed. The system of co-operation between the producing and consuming countries was put forward as a possible solution, but objections were raised as to the quantity to be allocated to each country and regarding the central authority to determine the estimates of the requirements of different countries. The question was made to involve the complexities and though the different countries are all agreed to the principle of the ‘limitation scheme’, and need for co-operative action, there is no unanimity of opinion as to the line of action to be finally adopted.

R. N. C.

THE SNAKE POISON AND VARIOUS OTHER POISONS HUMAN TREATED.—By P. Rama Kurup, B.A. L.T. The Mangalore Press, 1931. Pp. x plus 133. Price, Rs. 1

This little book deals with both snakes and other venomous animals, but the major portion is devoted to the description of snakes only. The book is an extract from 'Jyotsnika' written in Malayalam. In the preface the author refers to many other books written in Sanskrit and other oriental languages which he is anxious to bring before the English reading public. The secret remedies used in India since old times. The details he gives regarding the procurement, the life history and the poisons of snakes are very interesting, and are based mainly on the Indian mythology, which does not agree with the modern theories of physiology and clinical medicine. The author classifies the snakes into four divisions of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vysyas and Sudras, depending upon their appearance, mode of life, habits, etc. The toxicity and prognosis are based upon