The literature of syphilis is in process of being rewritten. A contribution of the highest importance is Mr. M'Donagh's recent book. The somewhat cumbrous title, *The Biology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases and the Biology of Inflammation and its Relationship to Malignant Disease*, indicates the wide field covered by the author; but while the other chapters are both interesting and suggestive, it is the section on syphilis which gives the work its distinction. The main argument rotates round Mr. M'Donagh's contention that the spirochaeta pallida is merely a phase in the life-history of the organism which he calls the "Leucocytozoon syphilidis." Histological, chemical, and clinical facts are marshalled in support of this theory with a thoroughness which is almost complete. But there are few questions intimately or remotely associated with syphilis which Mr. M'Donagh does not ask and answer with an originality which is always refreshing and frequently convincing.

We note that Mr. M'Donagh no longer relies on the Wassermann test as a guide to the amount of treatment required or of its success in establishing a cure, and also that he has almost abandoned the use of the "provocative injection" of salvarsan. He says a positive Wassermann "only means that the patient has had syphilis," and again, "I now never gauge my treatment by the Wassermann reaction. I give the patient the maximum amount of treatment which I have learnt by experience is necessary." On p. 221 he maintains that treatment based solely on a positive Wassermann may indeed be harmful. "A patient who, during the latent stage, gives a persistently positive Wassermann reaction of the blood, stands little chance of getting a degenerative nerve lesion; while a patient who, during this stage, gives a persistently negative Wassermann
reaction, is far more likely to develop a degenerative nerve lesion."

"Therefore, I have for some time made the rule not to treat a patient who persistently gives a positive Wassermann reaction during the latent stage, i.e., provided his previous treatment has been adequate, because I regard such a reaction as an indication of his protective capacity, which I am only likely to damage by treatment."

The presentation of Mr. M‘Donagh’s important observation on p. 153, that protein in the urine of a case of acute syphilis is likely to be globulin rather than albumin, and that the former does not indicate nephritis, is marred by a misleading description of the urine tests.

The chapter on syphilis of the skin is particularly good. It will simplify considerably the teaching of this subject.

The illustrations are a feature of the book. Altogether, this volume is a record of many original conceptions and much exhaustive research brilliantly executed.

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A Text-Book of Radiology. By Edward Reginald Morton, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed. London: Henry Kimpton. 1915.

In the preface the author tells us that his object has been to furnish "a useful guide to those taking up radiology for the first time," and he is to be congratulated on the very successful accomplishment of his purpose. The book contains 217 pages. It opens with the usual chapter on "Electrical Principles." About one-third of the book is devoted to the description of apparatus. Tubes are discussed at length, and many forms are described, including the Coolidge tube, which represents the latest great advance in tube construction. This section is concise and yet contains a very full record of appliances. Chapters XII to XV are devoted to "Regional Radiography," including the thorax and the digestive and urinary systems. The writer, while avoiding lengthy discussions, gives exact details both regarding the methods and the appearances on which opinions are to be formed. The book closes with a chapter on "X-ray therapeutics," in which in ten pages the
writer puts shortly and clearly all the essentials of the subject. On one point only do we wonder if the author has spoken wisely. He tells us that for those who are still undamaged "X-rays proof gloves are full protection." Not many years ago we were assured by an eminent exponent of radiology that ordinary rubber gloves were complete protection. We are now certain that the latter was wrong, and we are of opinion that the former is wrong too. A better book could not well be put into the hands of the beginner, and even to those who are expert it is well worth reading. It has entire absence of that vagueness which is so common a weakness in books on this subject. It is well indexed, and the illustrations are excellent.

An Index of Treatment by Various Writers. Edited by Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P., and James Sherren, F.R.C.S. Seventh Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1915.

A book so thoroughly established in the favour of the profession as the Index of Treatment needs few words to commend its seventh edition. A partial change of editorship has taken place, Mr. Stansfield Collier having been replaced as surgical editor by Mr. James Sherren, under whose auspices, and with whose collaboration, the surgical side of the volume is handled as ably as ever. Several new articles have been added, among them those on radium therapy, sterility, and the psychoneuroses. The last of these is particularly informative, although its author, Dr. Crichton Miller, would seem to attribute a value to Freudian methods and an importance to Freudian theories which will not be admitted without contest by the many antagonists of Freudism. The older articles have all been brought thoroughly up to date, and the amount of enlargement which the book has undergone is shown by an increase of over a hundred pages. The new edition, like its predecessors, is thoroughly representative of the best and most modern methods of treatment.