REVIEWS OF
BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

1. *Trypanosomes and Trypanosomiasis*. Laveran and Mesnil. Translated and much enlarged by D. Nabarro. London: Bailliére, Tindall, & Cox.

2. *Tropical Medicine*. Jackson. London: Rebman Ltd.

3. *Tropical Diseases*. By Sir Patrick Manson. Fourth Edition. With Seven Coloured Plates and 241 Plain Figures. London: Cassell & Co.

1. The receipt of three new books on tropical diseases within a few days may be accepted as a sign of the rapid progress which is being made in this branch of medicine. All three possess one common characteristic in being a credit to their respective publishers; the letterpress and reproduction of illustrations leave nothing to be desired, while Nabarro's translation and the fourth edition of Manson's book are thoroughly up-to-date, in this respect comparing very favourably with some recent publications on the same class of subject.

"Trypanosomes and Trypanosomiasis," the largest volume of the three, is entitled to prior consideration. It is not merely a translation of Laveran and Mesnil's well-known work (published three years ago), for, owing to the vast amount of original work which has been undertaken on trypanosome infection during the last three years, it has been found necessary, in order to bring the book up to date, to insert an amount of new matter (carefully distinguished by boundary marks) which has increased the size of the volume by nearly one-half. Among the more important additions may be mentioned articles on the "Spirochaetes," "The Leishman-Donovan Body," "Recent Observations on the Occurrence of Flagellates in the Tsetse Fly, Mosquito, Leeches, etc.," and illustrated descriptions of many new trypanosomes of small mammals, birds, batrachiens, and fishes.

After chapters on the "Technique for the Study of Trypanosomes," in which staining methods, cultivation, and inoculation experiments are described with great accuracy and detail, animal diseases, as "Nagarna," "Dourine," "Surra," etc., associated with the presence of trypanosomes, are exhaustively considered.

These diseases have been the cause of so much monetary loss both to communities and nations, that this portion of the book, while it will chiefly interest the scientific veterinarian, may from the economic standpoint be recommended for perusal to the government officials to whom the administration of the regions in which the diseases are prevalent is entrusted.

As might be expected, a large amount of space is devoted to
“Human Trypanosomiasis,” including sleeping sickness; in addition to much original matter by the translator, copious references being made to the latest literature on the subject.

When Laveran and Mesnil’s work was published in 1904, little or nothing was known regarding the treatment of trypanosomiasis. Since that time a large number of investigators, notably in this country and in France, have been engaged in the effort to discover a cure for the disease, and the results of so much original work, experimental and clinical, have been published, that it has been found necessary to add a new chapter, complete in itself, in which all the most recent methods of treatment are very fully and ably described.

The remainder of the book is occupied with the most complete description of the trypanosomes of birds, reptiles, batrachians, and fishes which has hitherto appeared in any work, all the latest additions to our knowledge of this most interesting branch of the subject being described in great detail, with numerous illustrations.

Typographical errors are few and unimportant, “1920” on p. 5 being too obvious to be misleading. The section on “Spirochætes,” considering the importance these organisms are now assuming, is sketchy, Castellani’s discovery of a spirochæte in yaws being disposed of in two lines. We have always understood that the discovery of the relation of trypanosomes to sleeping sickness was made by Castellani in 1902, the researches of Bruce, Greig, and Nabarro in 1903 confirming this discovery, and that Greig in his communication to the Royal Society, received and read on May 5, 1904, first pointed out the easy method of diagnosing trypanosomiasis by puncture of a lymphatic gland.

Beyond these few criticisms, we have nothing but praise for the book. Nabarro is to be congratulated not only on the accuracy of his translation, but on the painstaking work by which he has been able to collect all the latest literature on the subject and produce a work which, containing as it does all that is at present known of trypanosomes, not only provides most interesting reading, but will prove a valuable book of reference to all engaged in the study of trypanosomiasis, whether in connection with disease or otherwise.

2. The second work (“Tropical Medicine,” Jackson) calls for but brief notice. Its scope is very limited, since it treats chiefly of the tropical ailments prevalent in the West Indies, Central America, and the Philippines. The author candidly states in the introduction that for the sake of utility he has “omitted from consideration, other than simple mention or reference, a number of tropical diseases which have not been observed or occur so rarely as to be almost never encountered by the army, navy, or marine hospital surgeon, or by the civil medical observer in the American tropics.”

As a result of this, some important diseases prevalent in other tropical countries receive only the scantiest reference, while others are left quite unmentioned.

Unfortunately the book, although so recently published, is not up to date; for instance, there is no mention of the use of atoxyl in the treatment of sleeping sickness, or of the presence of the Spirochæta
pertenuis in yaws, while it is evident that the author has not read the reports of the Commission on Malta Fever, for it is stated that "the method of its transmission is entirely unsettled, and hence prophylactic efforts cannot be very specific." On the other hand, some very original opinions are expressed on many points (such as the value of ipecacuanha in the treatment of dysentery and the non-existence of sprue as a distinct disease), which are totally at variance with the opinions held by those whose field for the study of tropical diseases has not been limited to America.

The book, which would have been more aptly designated by the term "Diseases of the American Tropics" employed on the first page, is written in a clear, concise style, and will probably find a ready sale in America, but we regret that for the reasons above stated we are unable to recommend it to the student or practitioner desirous of possessing a general knowledge of tropical diseases.

3. Manson's "Tropical Diseases" is so well known and appreciated, that many have been looking forward to the issue of the fourth edition in the expectation that it would, as usual, prove to be a reliable, up-to-date text-book on the subject, and in this they will not be disappointed.

The book has been increased in size by more than a hundred pages, of which fifty are occupied by a new and valuable appendix on the "Protozoa of the Blood of Vertebrates." Several excellent plates have been added, and there are many new illustrations, while by skilful revision it embodies in a concise form practically all the latest and most important additions to our knowledge of tropical diseases.

Although the general excellence of the work cannot be denied, it presents a few features which suggest themselves as capable of improvement.

The description of the malarial parasites, while very exhaustive, would be rendered more easily comprehensible by the addition of a coloured plate showing the different forms of the parasite. To take one example: the sexual form found in the peripheral blood in benign infections is described as "closely resembling the mature parasite just prior to segmentation," and the reader is referred to an illustration which is devoid of any distinctive features. We are quite certain that, although this form of the parasite presents a most characteristic appearance in stained specimens, not one student in a hundred would be able to recognise it from the illustration or the description above quoted.

Enteric fever is the cause of so many deaths both of Europeans and natives in tropical countries, that the four pages devoted to the consideration of this disease are quite inadequate. No reference is made to scurvy, though every tropical practitioner knows how frequently this condition is encountered in the tropical and subtropical countries, and that it is a potent factor, often unrecognised, in the want of success in the treatment of both medical and surgical cases. Lathyrism, which, as Handley has shown, causes annually a large mortality in India, and possesses some features in common with beri-beri, is another disease which is left unnoticed.

On the other hand, we note a tendency to encourage the practice,
too often indulged in by writers on tropical diseases, of rushing into print and making definite assertions on insufficient data; there have been numerous instances of this during the last five years, in many cases the work of other investigators proving such assertions to be incorrect.

"Seven days' fever of Indian posts," which recent investigations have shown is nothing more or less than a form of dengue (an opinion long held by practitioners in India), is one example of this, while several others will be found in this book by consideration of the various theories and "strong assertions" of Sambon on many subjects, including the etiology of spotted fever of the Rocky Mountains, siriasis, and blackwater fever, the rôle played by the tsetse fly in the propagation of trypanosomiasis, etc. Most of the views put forward by Sambon are purely theoretical, unsupported by the slightest evidence of proof. Even in the matter of the new species of parasite *Schistosomum Mansonii*, the examination of two worms which he admits were too badly preserved to permit of any study of comparative anatomy, is the sole evidence adduced to support this addition to our already overloaded nomenclature. Regarding *siriasis*, since Sambon has during the last four years been apparently unable to bring forward anything in support of his theory, we may conclude that the following caustic criticism applied by MacLeod is still applicable: "The presence of a specific germ is pure hypothesis, and the attempts to prove it an epidemic disease, limited to a certain degree of altitude, are equally absurd."

There is nothing perfect under heaven, but Sir Patrick Manson's book is as near perfection as possible, and until further editions appear the present one will be regarded as the standard work on the diseases of tropical and subtropical climates. We can thoroughly recommend it to all engaged in the study or practice of tropical medicine.

*The Treatment of Disease.* By REYNOLD W. WILCOX. London: Rebman Ltd.

The second title of this work, "A Manual of Practical Medicine," is the more appropriate, for, while the author does not venture far into the realm of theory, he discusses more or less fully the pathology and symptomatology of every disease. The book is clearly written, and its contents sound and orthodox. Treatment is advised on what are in the main already well-established lines, and although throughout the volume we feel that the author speaks of methods which he has tried and tested by his own wide clinical experience, there is but little in the work which will be new to the profession.

The classification follows ordinary lines, beginning with infectious diseases and ending with animal parasites. The author believes that milk remains the most perfect food in enteric fever, and deprecates the continued popularity in his own country of the cold-bath treatment. He considers that in every case urotropin should be administered as a means of safeguarding the public health. On p. 17 calomel as an intestinal antiseptic is said to be "practically inert," on p. 59 its use in cholera is said to be attended with good results, not only in controlling the vomiting, but because it has in addition an antiseptic action upon
the digestive tract. Excellent rules are laid down for the dosage of antitoxin in diphtheria, and the author emphasises the danger of heart failure in this disease. Gummata are held to be infectious, and yet the prohibition against marriage is only two years after the primary sore, or, if active symptoms remain, then "as long as these persist."

Creasote carbonate, in the author's experience, given in doses of $\frac{1}{3}$ drm. to 1 drm., cuts short or aborts a large percentage of cases of croupous pneumonia, and mitigates almost all the rest. Disease of the islands of Langerhans is said to be the cause of the pancreatic type of diabetes mellitus, and Charcot's joints to occur in rheumatoid arthritis.

On the medical treatment of gastric ulcer the author is an enthusiast, and declares that 95 per cent. of cases should terminate in recovery in from twelve to fourteen days. In appendicitis, constipation may be allowed to last for five or seven days. It is justifiable to attempt reduction of an intussusception by inflation or the injection of fluid, but "unfortunately a recurrence of the intussusception not infrequently takes place."

An admirable account is given of the indications and contraindications for digitalis in heart disease. In cardiac cases paraldehyde is the best hypnotic, but the dose recommended—$\frac{1}{2}$ drm.—seems too small.

A much needed warning is given against the indiscriminate use of combustible powders by asthmatics. Like many other observers, the author has found creasote vapour yield excellent results in bronchiectasis.

Dr. Wilcox has made a special study of dechloridation in chronic parenchymatous nephritis, and finds restriction of salt from the food of great value in the prevention and treatment of dropsical conditions generally.

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**Syphilis in the Army.** By Major H. C. French. London: John Bale, Sons, & Danielsson.

This monograph deals chiefly with the disease as it occurs among our troops in India. The author has for long been an advocate of preventive measures, and from statistical evidence he shows the great diminution in venereal diseases that has resulted from controlling diseased women under the Cantonment Act of 1897. The admission ratio fell from 536 per 1000 in 1895 to 200.3 per 1000 in 1904, the diminution commencing immediately after the control code came into force. The methods of control adopted in Indian cantonments, for which the author is to a large extent responsible, are fully detailed in the second section of the work; and numerous appendices are furnished, which go to show the efficacy of these precautionary measures.

The section dealing with treatment is particularly interesting. The author appears to us to take an eminently moderate and rational view of the role of mercury in the treatment of syphilis. While he fully and freely admits its value, he is in no way blind to its dangers and limitations. He utters a timely warning against pushing the drug to its full physiological limits. "Many of the so-called relapses," he says, "are cases of secondary ulcers in the mouth, aggravated by mercurial
stomatitis." "I have seen men broken down by mercury as well as by syphilis." Major French places more reliance on potassium iodide in the early stages of the disease than most syphilographers, and he advocates its more frequent employment, both alone and in association with mercury. With regard to the influence of drugs on the disease, however, he believes that they merely remove the external manifestations, and thus assist the natural process of cure; but it is doubtful if they do more. "Syphilis is essentially a disease where we treat symptoms, and at the same time lay the flattering unction to our souls that we are treating the cause. Whether nature or our remedies take the larger share in obtaining success is immaterial; progress is the ultimate object of both."

The Surgical Treatment of Chronic Suppuration of the Middle Ear and Mastoid. By Seymour Oppenheimer, M.D. New York and London: Rebman Ltd.

We do not think we are wrong in saying that, at the present time, the smaller the subject selected, the larger appears to be the volume necessary for its description. As the title of this book indicates, it is limited to a discussion of the surgical treatment of chronic suppuration of the middle ear, nevertheless 410 large pages are required in order to place the subject before the reader. It must not be forgotten, too, that the intracranial complications of middle ear suppuration are not dealt with. It necessarily follows that the author tends to be somewhat diffuse in places, and his descriptions might with advantage have been curtailed. At the same time a great deal of valuable information is to be derived from reading these chapters, and the illustrations, which are numerous, are very beautiful and of great practical value.

The volume is divided into two parts. In the first, the treatment of chronic middle ear suppuration by way of the external auditory meatus is considered, a special chapter being devoted to the removal of the ossicles. Sufficient emphasis is not laid upon the value of Neumann's method of obtaining local anaesthesia by subcutaneous injection into the postero-superior wall of the meatus. Indeed, the information furnished regarding local anaesthesia and haemostasis, so important an element in operations in this situation, is very meagre and not likely to prove of great value to surgeons. The second part deals with the mastoid operations, the after-treatment of these cases, and the various plastic methods of closing a retro-auricular opening. A volume of this kind will prove of more value as a work of reference than as a text-book for everyday use, and in its former capacity it will appeal to the specialist in ear diseases. We notice the use of such words as "cauterants" and "atticitis," which we are not inclined to favourably accept.

A Text-Book of the Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Pharynx. By D. B. St. John Roosa, M.D., LL.D., and Beamam Douglass, M.D. New York: The Macmillan Co.

This volume, which was originally the work of Dr. St. John Roosa, has been practically re-written and brought up to modern ideas of
teaching and practice by the collaborators. It makes a very readable text-book, and is full of useful information. There is a tendency at the present time for writers of books upon diseases of the ear to become too diffuse, and a good deal of what is really of practical value to the reader is lost in the mass of detail. This criticism cannot be applied to the authors of this volume. It is true that certain simple methods of treatment are given in considerable detail, but we are at one with the authors on this point, as it is so frequently necessary that the medical attendant should be able to instruct patients exactly as to how such and such a procedure is to be carried out. Dr. Roosa is one of the pioneers in otology in the United States, and we are glad to see that his work is still brought prominently under the notice of the profession.

_The Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat: The Practical Medicine Series._ Vol. III. Series 1906. Edited by C. A. Wood, A. H. Andrews, and G. P. Head. Glasgow: Gillies.

This volume forms one of a series of ten volumes comprising a review of the year's progress in medicine and surgery. At the present time scientific literature is so enormous that access to it and time for its perusal cannot be procured by many who are anxious to keep themselves abreast with what is new. "The Practical Medicine Series" is an American publication, which endeavours to deal in brief with the chief papers published each year in the different departments of medicine and surgery. For one who is content to accept a synopsis of another's work, or who cannot procure the original paper, this volume will prove of value, as it gives a brief résumé of many interesting papers in connection with affections of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. The names of the writers associated with the volume sufficiently guarantee the character of the work.

_Polypus of the Nose._ By Eugene S. Yonge, M.D. (Edin.), Honorary Assistant Physician, Manchester Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat. Manchester: Sherratt & Hughes.

The etiology of nasal polypus has long baffled the surgeon, and various are the views which have been expressed regarding the causation of this troublesome nasal affection. Dr. Yonge has devoted a great deal of time and care in the elucidation of this subject, and in the present volume he gives a synopsis of the various views which have been expressed regarding the origin of nasal polypi, and then details his own work in connection with it. We must confess that he fails to impress us with his conclusions. Briefly, his theory is that polypi are edematous hypertrophies of the nasal mucous membrane, the indirect result of certain mechanical changes in the mucous glands. To prove his point he has carried out experiments on cats. It would be outside the scope of such a review as this to detail the experiments and the conclusions drawn from them. To all, however, who are interested in the subject, we recommend a careful perusal of the author's work, and we congratulate him on his untiring energy in seeking to elucidate the cause of this common and troublesome affection.
**Diseases of the Larynx.** By Harold Barwell, M.B. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Surgeon for Diseases of the Throat, St. George's Hospital. London, etc.: Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press.

This volume is one of the series of "Oxford Medical Publications" which are now appearing, and it has been specially written to supply what has certainly been regarded as a want, namely, a small manual dealing with affections of the larynx. We congratulate Mr. Barwell on supplying this want, and can recommend his work to the notice of the profession. It contains a great deal of useful matter, and the text is not overburdened with unnecessary detail. The chapter on tuberculosis of the larynx is very good and is well illustrated. This was to be expected from the author's previous work on this subject. The book is certain to be of value to the student and practitioner.

**Hay Fever, Hay Asthma: its Causes, Diagnosis, and Treatment.** By William Lloyd, Surgeon in Charge of the Nose, Ear, and Throat Department, Kensington General Hospital, etc. London: Henry J. Glaisher.

The author of this small volume makes no pretence of bringing before the profession any really new data regarding the etiology and treatment of hay fever. As he states in his preface, his chief reason for writing it is to record certain opinions which he holds upon the causes and effective treatment of this troublesome affection. He subdivides the subjects of hay fever into two distinct clinical types: those in which no structural abnormality is found in the nose, certain hyper-sensitive areas alone being detected, and those in which there is some structural abnormality in addition to the hyper-sensitive areas. Like the author, we are inclined to regard the first group as forming the true type of hay fever, and in our experience the majority of cases are of this nature. In treatment he lays stress upon the value of the cautery, and in his hands it appears to have met with considerable success. The volume gives a very fair résumé of the subject.

**Atlas and Epitome of Diseases of Children.** By Dr. R. Hecker and Dr. J. Trumpp. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company.

This "Epitome of Diseases of Children" (one of Saunders' "Hand Atlases") is an American translation of the work of Drs. Hecker and Trumpp, of the University of Munich, who, in the preface, advance the opinion that a subject can be nearly as efficiently taught by pictorial representation as by clinical instruction. With this end in view, they have interspersed the pages of this treatise with an unusually copious supply of coloured plates and black-and-white illustrations, most of which are excellently reproduced and faithfully depict the conditions they represent. Unfortunately, perusal of the book does not fulfil the expectations which the high standard of the illustrations leads one to anticipate. The clinical descriptions of the various conditions are often most inadequate, the definitions are exceedingly cumbrous, many im-
important diseases of children are altogether omitted, and the rules laid down for treatment are superficial and frequently misleading. Not to labour the question, dyspepsia is defined as "a result of injurious effects upon alimentation or disturbance of digestion and absorption due to organic weakness," no reference whatever is made to the rheumatic state in childhood, congenital laryngeal stridor and other important diseases of children, and the treatment of pyloric stenosis is summed up in the giving of high enemata, cataplasms to the abdomen, and atropin internally and subcutaneously. The nomenclature adopted is unusual, and we are treated to such unfamiliar terms as pedatrophia for atrophy, folliculus abscedens for multiple abscesses, balanoposthitis for balanitis, and many other unpronounceable names.

Nor can the editor be congratulated on his translation, which shows signs of hasty work. The sentences are frequently so involved as to obscure the meaning of the passage, the text bristles with literary inelegancies and with American crudities of expression and spelling, which will not appeal to British readers.

Apart from the illustrations, the book does not add anything to the literature of diseases of children, and it is not likely to supplant any of the excellent text-books on the subject.

*Diseases of the Intestines and Peritoneum.* By Professor Dr. Hermann Notthnagel. Edited, with additions, by H. D. Rolleston, M.D. Second Edition. Authorised translation under the editorial supervision of Alfred Stengel, M.D. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company.

This very large volume—it contains over a thousand closely printed pages—is probably the most encyclopaedic description of intestinal and peritoneal diseases extant. The late Professor Notthnagel was a voluminous writer, and his name, moreover, is specially associated with observations on many of the diseases treated of in this work, so that it necessarily has particular and personal value. The introductory chapters contain a very full description of the chemistry, bacteriology, and physiology of the intestine, and have, like the rest of the treatise, been brought thoroughly up to date by copious editorial addenda. Notthnagel attaches more importance to intestinal auto-intoxication, and to Bouchard’s views, than do the majority of German clinicians. There is an elaborate description of habitual constipation, which is usually, in Notthnagel’s opinion, due to some breakdown in the nervous mechanism regulating defaecation. The account of muco-membranous colitis and of colic are particularly good. In the chapter on diarrhoea, the form due to gastric achylia is briefly dealt with. As a practical point in treatment, which is seldom mentioned in text-books, we may note the advice that when opium has been used to cure diarrhoea the ensuing constipation should be left to nature, and not corrected by aperients. Chronic intestinal obstruction commands a large share of notice, and there is an excellent series of plates showing various forms of “ladder patterns” caused by the peristalsis of dilated and hypertrophied bowel. Looking at our own experience, we should say that these visible contractions of the intestine are less constantly associated with pain than
might be gathered from Nothnagel's description. A physical sign discovered by the author deserves quotation in connection with the diagnosis of the seat of the obstruction. It depends on the fact that great distension of the colon causes the percussion note in the lumbar region to change from dull to clear. When the stricture is in the sigmoid flexure both lumbar regions become resonant; when it is in the transverse colon or splenic flexure, only the right side becomes resonant. In obstruction and other acute intestinal diseases, Nothnagel advocates a more liberal use of opium than is generally recommended in this country, though he admits that his practice has recently undergone a change in the direction of restricting the drug. He lays down the rule that in obstruction of the bowels it should be given only within the first twenty-four or thirty-six hours, when pain is violent, and when a positive diagnosis cannot be made. A page is devoted to the use of metallic mercury in obstruction, the conclusion being that it is "hardly justifiable." There is a good study of appendicitis, in the treatment of which opium is strongly recommended. The objection that the drug masks symptoms is held as unimportant in comparison with its actual value. The section dealing with tuberculous peritonitis is not wholly in accord with modern views, particularly as to the age incidence of the disease, and the rarity of intestinal ulceration. This is partly due to the fact that here, as in other parts of the book, reference is made almost exclusively to adult patients: the numerous and important diseases of the bowels in children are scarcely mentioned. It is impossible, however, to touch on the innumerable subjects which this treatise discusses; it is in all respects a veritable mine of information.

To criticise, at this time of day, Nothnagel's "Handbuch" is to adopt the attitude of him who finds Shakespeare dull; there are many excellent people in the latter position, and they are neither inordinately presumptuous, nor, indeed, anything but modest persons in other particulars—a reflection which must serve as the present reviewer's apology when he expresses the opinion that this book would have been much better had it been half the size. Even as an encyclopædia, it is too thoroughgoing for ordinary mortals. Medicine is a big enough subject nowadays, and some limit should be set to the discussion of theories which, if not obsolete, are at least obsolescent, were it only that when the writer is a master of his subject we wish to discover his conclusions without too much hunting in a jungle of conflicting hypotheses. The desire to set down all the views which have been held on questions in themselves very complicated cannot be yielded to without greatly lengthening a book, and it may be doubted whether its value is correspondingly enhanced. Add to this, that disease is classified and subdivided, and clinical types are multiplied to an inordinate extent, so that often just as the reader thinks he has reached an end, he finds the author breaking into a fresh disquisition on a new variety. Every symptom is minutely analysed, not merely as to significance, but as to the cause and the theories which have been proposed to account for it, while the editor has been equally painstaking in garnering every fragment of literature which bears on the question in hand. For all these reasons, the volume is prolix, and contains many digressions and repetitions, rendering it difficult and not always interesting reading.
This, however, must remain largely a matter of personal taste, and we willingly admit that the flaws we have ventured to point to in this book exist only by reason of its virtues; without them it could scarcely have achieved the position of being the most elaborate treatise in existence on peritoneal and intestinal disease.

"Le Ventre": Étude anatomique et clinique de la cavité abdominale au point de vue de massage. Par Dr. F. Cautru et Dr. M. Bourcart. Vol. II. Paris: Felix Alcan.

In this volume the authors describe the topography and physiology of the organs of digestion as an introduction to their advocacy of massage in the treatment of various gastric and intestinal disorders. They claim to have obtained seemingly wonderful results in treating constipation, diarrhoea, muco-membranous enteritis, certain forms of ileus, etc., and are even bold enough to use massage in the early stages of acute appendicitis, in the hope of cutting short the attack. They favour exclusively manual as opposed to instrumental massage. While the frankness with which Drs. Cautru and Bourcart state their results and describe their methods is worthy of praise, we doubt if their book will cause many to share the profound faith they have in the manifold powers of their favourite therapeutic agent. They claim too much.

The Opsonic Method of Treatment. By R. W. Allen, M.B., B.S., Pathologist to the Royal Eye Hospital. London: H. K. Lewis.

The clear and succinct account of the opsonic method of treatment which Mr. Allen has given in his book will be welcomed more especially by the large section of the medical profession, which must perforce obtain its knowledge of the mysteries of the opsonic index at second-hand. Taken as a whole, the book presents an admirable survey of the subject, dealing briefly with the theoretical aspects of the question, and more fully with the methods and results of vaccine treatment controlled by estimation of the opsonic index, in clinical work. Following the initial chapters on laboratory methods and technique, tuberculous, staphylococcal, gonococcal, and various other infective conditions are dealt with in turn, and striking evidence is brought forward of the value of properly directed opsonic treatment in a number of diseases. Not the least attractive part of Mr. Allen's work is the brevity and clearness of his descriptions. We heartily commend his book to all interested in the subject.

Morris's Treatise on Anatomy. Fourth Edition. By English and American Authors. London: J. & A. Churchhill.

In an introductory note the publishers state that the entire work has undergone a complete revision, which has been effected by placing it in the hands of an American editor, and by securing the services of
American anatomists in the revision or re-writing of several of the sections. The new editor is Professor Playfair McMurrich of the University of Michigan, and he has specially taken in hand the chapters on “Morpho-Genesis” and on the “Urinary and Generative Organs.” Professor Thomson of King’s College, London, has revised the articles on “Osteology”; Professor Bardeen of Wisconsin, that on “Muscles”; Florence R. Sabin, Associate Professor of Anatomy to the Johns Hopkins University, that on the “Heart, Blood Vessels, and Lymphatics”; Dr. Hardisty of the University of California, that on the “Nervous System”; Professor Carl Huber of the University of Michigan, that on the “Organs of Digestion”; Professor Terry of the University of Washington, on the “Organs of Respiration”; Professor Kerr of the Cornell University, that on the “Skin and Mammary Glands”; and, lastly, the section on “Surgical and Topographical Anatomy” is from the pen of Mr. Jacobson, Consulting Surgeon to Guy’s Hospital.

A notable innovation is the use throughout the volume of the nomenclature adopted by the German Anatomical Society, and generally known as the Basel Nomenclature or B.N.A. It is stated that, in employing this nomenclature, the editors have been guided by a desire to assist in the unification of anatomical terminology, and we may say that we cordially agree with this laudable ambition. It is certainly confusing for anyone who has studied in this country to find, on consulting works by foreign or American authors, that the terms used are not the same. An important step in this direction was taken by Professor Barker of the Johns Hopkins University, who adopted the new nomenclature in his English translation of Spalteholz’s “Atlas of Human Anatomy,” published some little time ago. It must be conceded that the present generation will suffer some inconvenience from a partially duplicated nomenclature; but this will disappear in due course, and should not be regarded as a bar to such an important advance.

In other respects there are evidences throughout the whole work of the thorough revision which it has received, and the illustrations have been greatly improved by omitting some from previous editions and adding a large number of new ones both from original sources and from other anatomical publications.

The section on “Surgical and Topographical Anatomy” is very much fuller than that included in other anatomical works; it extends to no less than 142 pages, and is profusely illustrated.