REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

The Cause of Cancer. By W. E. Gye, M.D., and W. J. Purdy, M.B. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1931. (30s. net.)

A fair statement of the position outlined by Drs. Gye and Purdy would be that the causative agent in cancer is composite, being "made up of an element derived from the cancer cell—an intrinsic element—and of an element which is of extrinsic origin." The latter element is thought to be a virus.

It would be ingenuous on our part to appear unaware of the debates which have raged round this position, but we know of nothing in all those discussions which in any way detracts from the value of the book under review—The Cause of Cancer. We are not called upon, as reviewers, to register agreement or disagreement with such conclusions as the authors themselves may reach, but it is our function to examine the volume as an account of a very important investigation. The first section deals with the problem of malignancy, and is in itself an essay which even if separated from the remainder of the book would be a valuable contribution to medical literature. Then follows a detailed discussion of the Rous series of filterable fowl tumours, and so clear and simple is the description that even a layman could easily follow the story. After dealing with filterability of tumours the authors reach the most important part of the book, viz., their own experimental investigation of the cancer problem.

It is not possible within the space of a review to do justice to the many ingenious experiments devised and carried out by Drs. Gye and Purdy, but it may safely be said that no reasonable method for preserving or destroying the activity of filtrates has been overlooked. The action of phenol, the action of acriflavine, and the action of chloroform upon the filterable agent of the Rous sarcoma are tested in the greatest detail by the most laborious experiments, and the results assessed in judicial fashion. A most interesting discussion on the specificity of filtrates is followed by studies of immune sera and immunity reactions. Towards the end the authors present a short account of their experiments with the tumours of mammals, in the course of which it appears that the infectivity of acriflavine-inactivated filtrate of Rous sarcoma may be restored by the addition of extract of mammalian cancer. This is specially mentioned here,
because it appeals to the reviewer as one of the most striking phenomena emerging in the whole series of investigations.

As we have already hinted, whether we range ourselves with the "biological" school or with Gye and Purdy in their conclusion that cancer is a parasitic disease is not pertinent to this review, but we have no hesitation in paying tribute to an important work, composed of a series of investigations which must have called for unusual patience and outstanding powers of observation.

Colonic Irrigation. By W. Kerr Russell, M.D., B.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1932. (10s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Kerr Russell offers this book as a guide to those who wish to study and practise colonic irrigation, and in it will be found, not only descriptions of apparatus and methods of use, but also accounts of the physiology of the intestine and of intestinal flora and parasites. The author is careful to devote a warning chapter to the dangers which may be associated with irrigation, but he is not convincing when he discusses the conditions which are said to be benefited by this measure, and that despite the numerous authorities from whose works he quotes. Much as we are accustomed to one disease having many feasible treatments, it leaves us a little breathless to have one treatment offered for a large number of diseases. We are strongly of opinion that the claims made for colonic irrigation, as a therapeutic measure, by various people, are extravagant.

Recent Advances in Pathology. By Geoffrey Hadfield, M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond., and Lawrence P. Garrod, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. Camb., M.R.C.P.Lond. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1932. (15s. net.)

No department of pathology has been neglected in the authors' search for latest developments, and they have been good enough almost to step over the usual boundaries in order to bring in subjects which have a pathological bearing of any degree of importance.

The book opens with a chapter on the reticulo-endothelial system, in which is provided a history of the discovery of this system, as well as an account of the newest views of its functions. Cancer research, both experimental and therapeutic, is almost exhaustively dealt with, and, as might be expected, deficiency diseases are well to the forefront. Pneumonia and primary cancer of the lung necessarily demand space, although the authors point out that the former, and nephritis, "call for extended treatment rather for their importance as
diseases than for any striking discovery about them.’’ Many other morbid conditions are discussed, but space forbids further detail. Every section of the book is supported by a carefully compiled bibliography, and there are numerous excellent illustrations.

St. Thomas Hospital Reports. Vol. LIII, 1929. London: Adlard & Sons, Limited. 1931.

This is a statistical review of the work done, in all the departments of the hospital, during the year 1929. Fully one-third of this work was directed towards the treatment of disease in the digestive and generative systems. Many pages are devoted to the description of rare or interesting cases and the deaths. Certain conditions, generally recognized as being of fairly frequent occurrence, were infrequent at the hospital, but no doubt this is due to the presence of numerous special hospitals in London.

It is interesting to note that one or two symptoms, for example, abdominal pain, are classified amongst diseases, and not an inconsiderable number of cases fall into this group; but as all investigations were negative, it would appear that this is the most convenient way to represent the facts.

Recent Researches on the Nature and Function of Vitamins. By J. C. Drummond, D.Sc., F.I.C. London: Royal Society of Arts. 1932. (2s.)

This reprint of the Cantor Lectures, delivered in the spring of 1932 before the Royal Society of Arts, provides a useful summary of the present position of our knowledge of the vitamins. Professor Drummond has epitomized the subject in an admirable manner, and has succeeded in giving a coherent and easily read account of recent advances in this branch of knowledge. In the last lecture particularly the information provided has a very direct bearing on dietetics, which should make the pamphlet specially valuable to clinicians.

A Short Practice of Surgery. Vol. I. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.Eng., and R. J. McNeill Love, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1932. (20s. net.)

Hamilton Bailey is well known as the author of several books on surgical subjects. In conjunction with R. J. McNeill Love
he presents to the profession *A Short Practice of Surgery*, the first volume of which we now have under review.

The authors have made no attempt to write an elaborate book, but content themselves with recent and accepted details. We feel, however, that the lack of pathology and more complete explanations in several chapters detract not a little from the value of the work. Throughout the book there are many original touches both in the text and amongst the illustrations. With regard to the latter we feel that many of the illustrations are not particularly well chosen, and give us the impression that they have been included without due thought as to their usefulness. As a survey of general surgery we look upon it with favour. Assuredly, it is a tremendous improvement on the synopses and other "cram" books which find so much favour at the present time.

The covers of the book are distinctive but liable to soil readily. A more moderate price should serve to increase the popularity of a work which is only a survey.

NEW EDITIONS

*Applied Physiology.* By Samson Wright, M.D., M.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1931. (18s. net.)

It is sufficient to mention that another edition of this book has been published. It has been kept abreast of the most recent advances in the subject of physiology, and should continue to prove of great value to the clinician, to whom a knowledge of physiology is not only stimulating but also of practical value.

*Human Pathology.* Howard T. Karsner, M.D. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. Third Edition. (45s.)

Originally published in 1926, the appearance of a third edition of Professor Karsner's book indicates the popularity which this volume has achieved. The present book is slightly more bulky than its predecessors. It has been brought up to date by revision and rewriting of several sections, while several entirely new sections have been added. The main arrangement of the volume is unaltered—general and systematic pathology being treated in sequence. The title is justified by the continual clinical contact which is maintained throughout the book. The author wisely refrains from including any of the latest tumour classifications; evidently he is satisfied with the present morphological classi-
fication until something more definite is known concerning tumour ætiology. The author does not favour excessive illustration, which may account for the indifference of many of the photographs in the text. The drawings reproduced, however, are uniformly good. References have been brought up to date, and the index is adequate. Altogether the volume is an excellent summary of present-day pathology in relation to medicine.

Diseases of Women. By Thomas G. Stevens, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. New and Revised Edition. London: The University of London Press, Limited. 1931. (20s. net.)

As in previous editions the author adopts an arrangement based on pathology, and, indeed, a clear and full description of the pathology and ætiology of the various lesions is the outstanding feature of the book. The verbal description is further elucidated by microphotographs and diagrams, all effective, although some a little crude and amateurish.

Perhaps the best sections are those dealing with the new growths. The symptomatology, diagnosis, pathology, and treatment are discussed sanely and deliberately, and the steps in the operations are clearly detailed. An interesting chapter is that on retroflexion, in which complication the author advises operation only in a limited number of cases, and then only for specific reasons. The ætiology of prolapse of the uterus is very well argued, but we feel that the discussion on treatment is too brief to be of much value.

Regarded as a whole, this work is extremely satisfactory; it is essentially lucid, terse, and decisive, and bears throughout unmistakable evidence of a long practical experience.

Pocket Atlas of Anatomy. By Victor Pauchet and S. Dupret. Second Edition. Oxford Medical Publications, Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1931. (12s. 6d. net.)

Messrs. Victor Pauchet and S. Dupret are to be congratulated on the appearance of a second edition of their Pocket Atlas of Anatomy within three years of the first. The book is truly an atlas in that "there is no text and no legends," so that the student or practitioner can at once refresh his memory from the well-labelled illustrations. The Atlas, clearly printed on good paper, is of suitable size for a vade mecum.