REVIEW.

Rose and Carless's Manual of Surgery. Ninth Edition, Revised by Albert Carless, M.B., M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1914.

"That most comprehensive and clear of all text-books on surgery" is the description once applied to "Rose and Carless" by an eminent surgeon, himself an author, and they must be few who are not prepared to approve the tribute.

Although the size of the book and its general plan have not been appreciably altered, this ninth edition, nevertheless, embodies many new features, prominent among which is a new section dealing with treatment by heat, light, electricity, and radio-activity. Several new coloured plates and numerous other illustrations have been added, and such other additions and deletions have been made as the recent progress of surgery seemed to demand. The book is, in a word, our old friend brought right up to date.

The Book of Pharmacopoeias and Unofficial Formularies. By E. W. Lucas, F.I.C., F.C.S., and H. B. Stevens, F.I.C., F.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1915.

A monument of industry, "containing the formulas of the British, United States, French, German, and Italian pharmacopoeias, together with formulas from unofficial sources, as the British Pharmaceutical Codex, the National Formulary of the United States, the pharmacopoeias of the principal London hospitals, &c., the whole comprising about five thousand formulas." An index running to forty-six closely printed pages follows.

It is a mine of information in which those interested will delve with profit. As far as we know, there is no other book
of the kind, and, granted that the figures are all accurate, it will form a unique and valuable work of reference.

A glossary of French, German, and Italian names, and tables of thermometric equivalents and metric and imperial weights and measures are given.

There is nothing with which to compare it; but the arrangement, printing, and condensation are such that the book is quite reasonable in size, in spite of the fact that considerable areas of white paper appear on almost every page. What strikes one is that the labour entailed in producing the book could only be undertaken by those who were treating it as a well-beloved hobby.

The work will appeal more particularly to those interested in pharmacy, and we trust the authors will receive compensation for their labour.

Leper Houses and Mediæval Hospitals. The Fitzpatrick Lectures. By CHARLES A. MERCIER, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis. 1915.

As these lectures appeared in the Glasgow Medical Journal for January and February of this year, and consequently will have already been appreciated by our readers, it will be sufficient in this place to mention the fact that they have now been published under separate cover, and may be obtained in this form at a nominal price.

Husband's Students' Pocket Prescriber and Guide to Prescription Writing. By DAVID MITCHELL MACDONALD, M.D. Fifth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1915.

This edition has been revised in accordance with the new B.P. It contains nearly five hundred prescriptions arranged according to diseases of the various systems and general diseases. The diseases in each system are arranged alphabetically, and one or more prescriptions given for each disease. Various appendices, including a vocabulary, are incorporated. On the whole, the
prescriptions are suitable for the conditions mentioned, though naturally each physician has his own ideas on such a matter; but the book would serve more especially as a guide to the student in formulating a prescription for a diseased condition once he has been able to label it.

Painless Childbirth in Twilight Sleep. By Hanna Rion. London: T. Werner Laurie, Limited. 1915.

For some time articles have been appearing in various lay papers and magazines on the subject of painless childbirth, or the so-called twilight sleep in labour, and now we have this book appearing, written by an American, Hanna Rion. The authoress, or perhaps it is the publishers, claim that it is "one of the most important books of the century." To use an American phrase, that is a pretty tall order.

On the cover of the book the following announcement is made:—"In 'twilight sleep' we have an acknowledged, tested, and perfect method of painless childbirth. It is a Gospel of Hope for every thinking woman who has a child, who hopes to have one, or fears to have one, or who has a daughter who may some day be a mother." That is a very sweeping and comprehensive statement, but it is one which is made by a writer with no scientific training. In the March number of Surgery, Gynecology, and Obstetrics, in an article entitled "The latest word on the subject of scopolamine semi-narcosis," we find the following statement:—"The conclusions drawn by the writer after the unusual opportunity to investigate the Freiburg method as applied in this country [America] are not different from those given in the paper published in the December number of the Journal of the Kansas Medical Society. It is a hospital procedure, and not universally successful. It can be safely used only by those who have been specially trained." That is the statement of a medical man who had visited a large number of hospitals in America where the treatment was being tested. Our experience bears out this statement.

The book is made up of interviews with patients who have undergone the treatment, interviews with various medical men,
abstracts from numerous papers on the subject, and reports of discussions in various societies. We notice that Buist, of Dundee, and Sir J. Halliday Croom, of Edinburgh, have allowed their views to be given. We are glad to see that Buist maintained that the medical man in attendance must decide whether or not the treatment was to be adopted. This is not the view of the writer. Croom has allowed an interview with him to appear, and he has also written a letter for publication in the book. He says—"Ever since its first introduction I have used it regularly in every private case under my care, rendering the whole process a dream, and without the slightest bad effects either to the mother or the child." This statement reminds us of the legend attached to an advertisement of a well-known soap. Has the General Medical Council nothing to say in reference to the appearance of this letter in a lay publication?

We are sorry this book has appeared. No good has ever come from attempts to force the hands of the medical profession. The travellers for several of the large drug firms have informed us that they are supplying large quantities of scopolamine and morphine to general practitioners in England. We trust that the Scottish practitioners will think twice before they take up the treatment. We repeat the American doctor's warning—"It can be safely used only by those who have been specially trained."

An Introduction to Midwifery: A Handbook for Medical Students and Midwives. By Archibald Donald, M.A., M.D.Edin. With numerous Illustrations. Seventh Edition, Revised. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Limited. 1915.

This handbook has now reached its seventh edition. It is intended for students as well as midwives, and the author states he has "omitted all reference to measures that are outside the province of those for whom the book is intended." We think that this is a mistake, and the author would have added to the value of the book if he had given more information in regard to treatment in emergencies. For instance, in the treatment of a case of unavoidable haemorrhage, a doctor is to be sent for, and the patient is to be kept in bed in a cool, quiet, No. 3. P Vol. LXXXIV.
and well-ventilated room. We have no fault to find with the advice, so far as it goes, except to remark that such an ideal room will be difficult to find in the slums; but suppose the doctor cannot be got for some hours, is the nurse to stand beside her patient and watch her bleed to death? No! she should try to save that woman's life, and to enable her to do so she should have been taught what to do in such an emergency. Curiously enough, in the treatment of accidental hæmorrhage, the author says that the pupil may rupture the membranes when the head or breech presents. That is sound advice, but why shouldn't she have been told of something to do to check the bleeding in the other form of hæmorrhage?

The book is a very good one so far as it goes, but in our opinion its value would be greatly increased if more information were given as to how to deal with emergencies, when medical assistance cannot be obtained in time.

The Brain in Health and Disease. By J. Shaw Bolton, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. London: Edward Arnold. 1914.

This volume is the result of Dr. Shaw Bolton's elaborate researches, extending over a period of eighteen years, into the minute anatomy of the normal and abnormal brain, and it constitutes an attempt to establish normal and abnormal cerebral function upon a definite anatomical basis. "The work," says its author, "must be regarded as a treatise on general cerebral physiology and pathology, and not as in any sense a text-book, monograph, or dissertation on mental disease." It happens, however, that of its four hundred and seventy pages two-sevenths are devoted to cerebral function in the normal brain, and five-sevenths to cerebral function in mental disease, and in view of this apparent disproportion it is a little difficult to adopt the attitude which is thus postulated. The former section, elaborate as it is, is indeed in a large measure a preparation for the latter, and it is upon the result of his minute inquiry into normal anatomy and function that Dr. Bolton builds up a new classification of mental disorders.

His method is as follows. He has taken for particular study
three special areas of the cerebral cortex—the visuo-sensory, the visuo-psychic, and the prefrontal. Of these he has made very numerous micrometric measurements, determining thus, in each region, the average thickness of the cortex as a whole, and of its several laminae, in health and in conditions of mental disease, and studying in addition the order in which the laminae develop. Viewed from this anatomical standpoint he finds that all cases of mental disease can be divided into two classes—those which exhibit from the macroscopic aspect "abnormal, no abnormal, no morbid, or slightly morbid appearances;" and those "which exhibit morbid signs of any higher grade of intensity, and, in some instances, abnormal appearances also." The former he classes under the term amentia, the latter under the term dementia; amentia connoting defective neuronic development, dementia neuronic degeneration following insufficient durability. Aments suffer more or less markedly from sub-evolution of the cerebrum, dements from involution and dissolution of the cerebrum. Amentia does not preclude the onset of dementia, of which senile mentation may be regarded as a mild degree, and in many aments cerebral senility occurs at an abnormally early age.

The changes in the cortex are characteristic for his two types of mental aberration. In amentia there are in the visuo-sensory and visuo-psychic areas marked individual variations which appear to bear no relation to the degree of amentia; and the same is true of dementia. But in the prefrontal area both specialisation and individual variation are absent, and the cortex exhibits in amentia a degree of sub-evolution varying with the grade of amentia present. "The laminae are sub-evolved in their normal order, the last to appear being the least developed." In dementia the condition is one of dissolution, and the last lamina to appear in normal development is the first to undergo retrogression. Wasting of the convolutions corresponds very exactly to the degree of dementia, and the greatest degree of wasting is found in the prefrontal region. Dementia is thus, in the sense in which Dr. Bolton uses the word, a permanent mental deterioration arising from a neuronic degeneration which is demonstrable both macroscopically and microscopically, and which depends directly or indirectly upon toxic agents. The first clinical evidence of this toxic state is
a condition of "mental confusion," which may end either in recovery or in permanent dementia, the difference in result being conditioned by the degree of durability of the neurons.

It is impossible owing to limitations of space to give in detail the classification of mental diseases which follows upon the adoption of this conception, but it will be readily seen that under amentia must be included cases of idiocy and imbecility with or without epilepsy, cases of recurrent insanity, hysteria, epileptic insanity, and paranoia; while under dementia will fall those cases which may be regarded as primarily neuronic—senile or "worn-out" dementia, climacteric, adult, and premature or adolescent dementia—and those progressive cases chiefly of secondary origin, which include progressive senile dementia and general paralysis.

Such in general outline is the scope of Dr. Bolton’s conception of mental disease, and even from so brief a summary it will be evident that his work has rendered signal service to the alienist, were it in nothing more than the establishment of a sound anatomical basis for the study of insanity. But, as the preface justly claims, it is in reality of even wider purport. In the analysis of cerebral function, much will be found for which the physiologist is in the author’s debt; in the numerous and graphic records of cases the clinician will discover a congenial field of study; while the temperate and judicial style, possible only to a writer whose opinions are the result of long and wide experience and deep knowledge of his subject, adds weight to everything that Dr. Bolton has to say. It is superfluous to commend such a book to the expert alienist; it may not be unnecessary to say that it should be in the possession of every one interested in the study of the brain.

An Index of Prognosis and End-Results of Treatment.
Edited by A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 1915.

A companion to the Index of Treatment and Index of Differential Diagnosis already published by Messrs. Wright & Sons, this volume aims, in the words of its editor:
“(1) To set forth the results, and particularly the end-results, of various methods of treatment, in such a form as will enable the practitioner to obtain a fair, unbiased, reasoned opinion as to the prospects of securing for his patient permanent relief, and the risks of such treatment.

“(2) To furnish data by means of which, apart from the question of treatment, one may seek to arrive at an accurate forecast of what will probably happen to the individual patients.”

This attempt has not been made before. The information afforded by the text-books on the subject of prognosis, as Dr. Short points out with too much reason, is vague, general, and insufficient. It seldom affords the practitioner more help in an individual case than can be derived from a statement of average results, and it very rarely discusses with any detail what in the way of benefit or danger is to be expected from a particular line of treatment. A knowledge of prognosis has to be gained laboriously, as the result of the experience of many years; and since, next to a speedy cure, it is the outlook for the future in which the patient is most interested, his preference for a senior practitioner is readily understood. But even the senior practitioner, relying on his personal experience alone, may easily be at fault in cases of the rarer diseases, of which he may see not more than one or two in a lifetime.

There is room, then, for such a volume, and whatever may be said against an index of diagnosis in which the reader starts by investigating all the possible causes of the leading symptoms, similar objections do not apply to an index such as this. It must be judged solely by the completeness with which it fulfils its aims, and that these have been in this instance fulfilled in an admirable manner is not open to question. The number of contributors, all of them well known and authorities upon their special subjects, is considerable, and from the point of view of the pleasure they afford to the reader there is naturally some difference between individual articles. But all of them convey information of the highest value, which it is hardly possible to obtain elsewhere in a collected form; they convey it impartially, not merely on the *ipse dixit* of the writer, but as a result of careful examination and comparison of series of statistics, and what they convey is just the kind of information which is of
the greatest practical use. The reader of the book will find his therapeutic efficiency increased by its comparative appraisement of the value of different forms of treatment in a given case; and he will also find that his forecast of the future, resting on a surer basis than it formerly did, is of more worth both to his patient and to his own reputation.

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**Occupational Affections of the Skin.** By R. Prosser White, M.D., M.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1915.

Dr. Prosser White has performed a very useful work in providing in this volume a brief but comprehensive survey of the trade processes and agents which give rise to occupation dermatitis. Opening with a short account of the etiology, pathology, and distinguishing features of these affections, he goes on to consider their separate varieties. The disorders due to "trades, chemicals, and processes" are dealt with in the next three chapters, which are followed by a chapter on petroleum and tar distillates, after which comes one devoted to the effects of aniline and aniline dyes. A section upon dermatitis veneneta follows, in which the irritations due to the handling of plants are treated, and the book closes with a description of the zoetic dermatopathies—butter's pemphigus, anthrax, glanders, and the dermatomycoses. Within its short compass it includes a mass of information of the utmost value, both to the dermatologist and to all who are concerned with the diseases of industrial life.

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**Nature and Nurture in Mental Development.** By F. W. Mott, M.D., F.R.S. London: John Murray. 1915.

The groundwork for this volume is the series of Chadwick Trust Lectures delivered by Dr. Mott in 1913. Of these it is an expansion, but even in its expanded form it constitutes a book of only some one hundred and fifty pages. It might be asked, as Dr. Mott indeed hints in an apologetic preface, whether
much that is useful could be said upon so large a subject in so limited a space. To those who know his work the question is superfluous, and the penetrating and suggestive character of his writing is apparent on each page. Among the subjects of which he treats are the influence of environment and heredity in mental hygiene, the correlation between mind and matter as illustrated in the cerebral hemispheres, the relation between the hormones and mental activity, neuropathic inheritance and the inheritance of genius, the effect of sex upon character, and the influence of nutrition and education upon mental development. The range is wide, but the brief handling of each subject is full of suggestion, and no reader can fail to extract from the little book much that will give him food for thought.

A Manual of Chemistry: Theoretical and Practical, Inorganic and Organic. By Arthur P. Luff, M.D., B.Sc.Lond., F.R.C.P., F.I.C., and Hugh G. H. Gandy, B.A., B.Sc.Lond., F.I.C. Fifth Edition, enlarged. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1915.

This is a book which is stated to be adapted to the requirements of students of medicine, and it may be agreed that it fulfils these requirements very well indeed. It is of medium size, but it manages to deal with chemistry from the point of view of the medical student in quite an adequate fashion. It is well written and clearly arranged, contains no padding, and goes straight to its objective. Of course, in a book of this size the subject cannot be dealt with very fully, but the selection exercised by the authors has been a very happy one, and we can cordially recommend the book for the purpose stated. It is a very good one.