Dr. Miller Semple referred to a patient Dr. Hinshelwood had seen with him in consultation who was completely word- and letter-blind. Re-education had been begun fourteen months after the cerebral attack by making the patient learn the alphabet. After two months she was able to read small words in a child’s primer.

Dr. John Patrick enquired if Dr. Hinshelwood had tested his patient with shorthand characters, and if any attempt had been made to make the patient use the left arm so as to stimulate the functional activity of the healthy side of the brain.

Dr. Hinshelwood, in reply to Dr. Patrick’s suggestion, pointed out the difficulty of getting patients to change their lifelong habits. He had not tested his patient with shorthand, though that might be done with advantage.

REVIEWS.

A Short Practice of Midwifery. By Henry Jellett, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. Third Edition. Revised and Enlarged. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1901.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the third edition of this short but most useful practice of midwifery.

The two previous editions of this work were written for both nurses and students of medicine. In this edition, however, Dr. Jellett has deleted all that was peculiarly applicable to the former, and made it a text-book for the junior student of midwifery. This, we think, is a very wise course, especially as the author has recently embodied what was of special importance to nurses in a short text-book for them.

It is unnecessary to give in detail the special features of Dr. Jellett’s book. These have been already referred to by us in our previous review of the work.

In the present edition, the author has added four new chapters. These include chapters on “Pregnancy and its Phenomena,” “The Ovum,” and “Obstructed Delivery.” These are discussed with the same clearness and conciseness as characterises all his writings.

Dr. Jellett has also added to the edition the report of the Rotunda Hospital for the last two years.
We know of no work of its size from which a better idea of modern obstetrics will be gathered than from Dr. Jellett's *Short Practice of Midwifery*. We again give it our heartiest recommendation.

Diseases of the Intestines: Their Special Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By John C. Hemmeter, M.D. Vol. I. London: Rebman, Limited. 1901.

The title of this book shows that it contains, in addition to the above, "sections on anatomy and physiology, microscopic and chemic examination of the intestinal contents, secretions, faeces and urine, intestinal bacteria and parasites, surgery of the intestines, dietetics, diseases of the rectum, &c." The section on "Anatomy and Histology of the Intestines" is written by J. Holmer Smith, M.D.; that on "Examination of the Faeces and Urine," is by Harry Alder, M.D.; and "Intestinal Bacteria," by W. Royal Stokes, M.D., all of Maryland University. Dr. Martin, Professor of Proctology, Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons, contributes the section on "Diseases of the Rectum."

A very full index of subjects and authors has been compiled by Dr. Skillman and Dr. Conser. The publishers are Messrs. P. Blakiston, Son & Co., and their work has been admirably done, the volume in our hands being handsomely got up, beautifully printed and illustrated, and, therefore, easy and pleasant to read.

Dr. Hemmeter states that he set out to accomplish the task of "furnishing the practitioner with a complete work from which he may readily instruct himself concerning the most approved and modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of intestinal diseases." All through the volume there is evidence of the fact alluded to by the author that "almost the entire modern literature on this subject has been gone over and systematised." The bibliography is excellent and remarkable, specially, for instance, the reference appended to the chapters on intestinal bacteria, and enteritis and colitis, amongst others. The volume contains an enormous amount of information, and the views expressed are certainly modern and up to date. We would say that probably the British practitioner has not yet got the length of fully appreciating, or almost even attempting, some of the methods of examination and treatment recommended. There is a strong German flavour about them. Some of them seem only possible to hospital physicians—for instance, parts of the chapter on
the methods and technics of diagnosis and that on duodenal intubation—but, certainly, the only objections to the methods are those that might be raised by the patient, and it is true that further advance in our knowledge must come along the lines of examination treated of by the author.

In Part I, the chapter on intestinal bacteria is specially clear and interesting.

Part II is concerned with the rationale, means, and modes of treatment, and the remarks on auto-intoxication and intestinal antiseptics are well worthy of perusal. The author sounds a welcome note of warning to those who adopt the theory of auto-intoxication too freely and indiscriminately, as seems to be the tendency in America as elsewhere. The author does not wish to rank as a disbeliever of auto-intoxication theories, but desires scientific proof, and states, in true American style, that the "doctrine thus far is devoid of most every objective proof."

Part III is entitled "Intestinal Clinic." This is a misnomer, the use of which we cannot understand. The contents of Part III are chapters on constipation, diarrhoea, colic, dysentery, &c., and a feature about them is that they contain hardly a record—just one, we think—of a clinical case. The term, in any case, seems to us an abuse of English—even of American English; for, in an American dictionary, we find "clinic" to mean "medical instruction given at the bedside, or in the presence of the patient whose symptoms are studied, and whose treatment is considered." It is difficult, therefore, to conceive anything more unclinical than Part III of this book, and the adjective "intestinal" only confuses the more. This leads us to say that we have no sympathy with further, presumably American, efforts to parade new or unused terms—e.g., obstipation for constipation. What reason or good can there be in this? Nor do we in the least care for the author's invention of "dystyrisia intestinalis." Why not stick to "intestinal indigestion?" and be done with it. No one wants to speak of "intestinal dyspepsia." In the chapters of Part III there is more evidence than in the rest of the book of the need for pruning and condensing. There is too much repetition, and also a great amount of subdividing and classifying, which requires very careful attention; for instance, the classification of intestinal catarrh on page 435. There is in this chapter a special amount of repetition.

We are frequently, also, pointedly referred back to a chapter much later on in the book. There is a great deal of this; also of references to the author's work on the stomach.

No. 1. E Vol. LVIII.
Errors in punctuation are fairly frequent, and a typical example of a confused sentence is found on page 220. Also, the following sentence on page 330—"The only sedatives which are used, to any extent, in the treatment of intestinal diseases are opium, morphin, and the alkaloids of opium, particularly codein and belladonna, with its alkaloid, atropin." Here we have the double confusion, from faulty construction, of morphin being presented as different from the alkaloids of opium, and of belladonna being equally an alkaloid of opium with codein. While careful revision can remedy many matters of this sort, it cannot remove from the mind some resentment at the spread-eagle fashion in which William and Herbert Allingham are included under the sentence—"In this country we have a talented array of rectal specialists." Are the Allinghams Americans? Or has the author not the slightest acquaintance with the life and works of those whom he quotes so readily?

The volume, however, as a whole, is very welcome, mostly to those who study the entire subjects dealt with. It is no book mainly for reference at the moment. It must be read as a whole, through and through, one would say, to be appreciated. And we think that the work has been done very well, though it would have been easy for Dr. Hemmeter to have done it better. Vol. II will be looked forward to with interest, especially the chapter on appendicitis, and that on diseases of the rectum, which, by the way, is by a "Professor of Proctology." But the reader must not permit himself to be annoyed by what seems pedantry, if nothing worse. And there can be no doubt that the owner of both volumes will have beside him an immense source of instruction.

The Accessory Sinuses of the Nose: Their Surgical Anatomy and the Diagnosis and Treatment of their Inflammatory Affections. By A. LOGAN TURNER, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed. Edinburgh: William Green & Sons. 1901.

DR. LOGAN TURNER is to be congratulated on the publication of this volume. It is perhaps the most valuable addition to the literature relating to affections of the nose which has appeared during the past year. The author has had unusual opportunities for the compilation of such a work, and he has used the material placed at his disposal—chiefly by his father, Sir William Turner—to great advantage. Like many
another valuable monograph, this book had its origin in a lecture which was delivered before the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The subject of that lecture was "The Illumination of the Air Sinuses of the Skull, with some Observations upon the Surgical Anatomy of the Frontal Sinuses." The subject matter of that, and of another communication, forms the basis of the volume, to which are added observations on the surgical anatomy of the maxillary sinuses, the ethmoidal cells, the sphenoidal sinus, and the communications existing between these cavities and the nasal chambers.

Practical interest has been added to the work by the inclusion of two chapters dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of the inflammatory affections of the nasal accessory sinuses, in which the present-day methods are well described.

The value of the work to the practical surgeon is greatly enhanced by the number of the illustrations, which, for the most part, are photographs of original dissections, and which very graphically depict the normal and the abnormal in the size, position, and shape of the accessory sinuses of the nose.

A Brief Manual of Prescription-Writing in Latin or English for the Use of Physicians, Pharmacists, and Pharmacal Students. By M. L. Neff, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co. 1901.

The author, like many other teachers, has evidently, for a long time, recognised that the ordinary student of medicine has not a good knowledge of Latin, or what is still nearer the truth in many cases, has scarcely enough Latin to enable him to write a prescription, after the manner of the older physicians, some of whom are still among us.

This inability on the part of the student has suggested the necessity of this book, which, though the author disclaims all attempt to teach the Latin language as such, gives a good deal, and certainly all the rudiments necessary for prescription-writing, and enough to prevent the student laying himself open to a show of ignorance.

Such knowledge is essential as long as it is found convenient for us to have the names of our drugs and preparations in Latin. But Latin in prescription-writing should only be made use of to the extent of writing out the names of the
drugs in proper form, and, possibly also, if desired, the directions to the chemist.

The attempt, on the other hand, to give in Latin the ordinary directions, which are meant for the patient, is not only unnecessary, but unsafe. As far as possible a man should keep to the language which he really understands. Notwithstanding these views, however, the use of the present little book is evident, containing, as it does, all that is essential for correct prescription-writing.

A Text-Book of Pharmacology, including Therapeutics, Materia Medica, and Toxicology. By Torald Sollmann, M.D. London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1901.

The massing of details in text-books dealing with therapeutics and materia medica is one requiring rare discretion in deciding how much matter should be included. The author has borne this in mind, and has adhered to his aim in discussing the physiological action of drugs, and of adducing scientific reasons for these actions, rather than the consideration of vague conflicting theories.

The first portion of the book is devoted to pharmacy, pharmaceutical methods, and the outline of toxicological analysis. The author has been able to find space for a notice of many of the newer remedies, as well as for notes upon many of the older drugs. The book, divided into four parts, is an attractive volume of over eight hundred pages, well printed on excellent paper, and the adoption of leaded and varied type has imparted a freshness and brightness of style. The diagrams and illustrations are numerous and appropriate, and the book is full of useful hints on modes of treatment and administration.

Chapter XVII deals very fully with the series of coal-tar derivatives, and it is shown that the action of the series agrees in a general way with that of quinine, the principal difference lying in the degree in which the different actions are exerted. In the antipyretic group, the principal effect is upon the heat regulating centre, and in the antiseptic group upon the protoplasm. So violent is it in the latter case, that it produces necrosis locally and collapse centrally. Quinine has both these actions in a less pronounced degree, producing its main effects by a mild paralysing action on the protoplasm.

The section on serum therapy is concise and accurate, but is too brief for the growing importance of the subject. At the
same time, there are no traces of hurried work in the book—it is clear and forcibly written, never redundant, and, as a whole, its contents are well balanced, and arranged in a thoroughly methodical and logical manner.

The sections which refer to theories on the action of alcohol, and to its use in fever as a food; to the absorption of iron; to the action of drugs upon the heart; to the remote actions of acid and alkali, are specially worthy of mention, and show that no pains have been spared by the author to bring the work up to the standard of the most advanced therapeutics.

Part III embraces practical exercises in laboratory work with simple experiments, including work in chemistry and experiments on frogs and mammals.

Part IV is on the methods of analysing the causes of pharmacological actions.

Some portions of the work are fairly open to criticism, amongst which may be mentioned the remarks on the condition of the pituitary body in acromegaly (p. 317). The author states that the gland is usually found atrophied. Furnival has recently analysed thirty-four recorded autopsies. Changes were found in the pituitary gland in all, and in the majority there was hypertrophy or tumour. Dr. Pierre Marie says—"The most specific of these lesions, one which may be considered as essential, since it has not been found absent, is the considerable increase in the size of the pituitary body;" and in a case reported by Johnston and Monro (Glasgow Medical Journal, August, 1898), a sarcomatous tumour was found.

The author states on page 575 that no deleterious action has been demonstrated for either borax or boric acid in any quantities which would be likely to be used as food preservatives. We hold that the detrimental effect is not to be measured in this way.

It is almost ungracious to criticise an author's nomenclature, but we regard the literary form of this book to be decidedly marred by the liberty he has taken with the English language in dealing with some universally known clinical terms. It is one thing to be smart and brief in style, but this is altogether overdone when words are so altered in form, without regard to their derivation, that they become positively inaccurate in philology. We allude to terms such as feces, edema, anemia, toxemia, and leucemia. The style is one to be regretted, and not one to be emulated. Apart from these exceptions, we can heartily recommend the book as one that will be useful for study as well as for reference.
The first article in this pamphlet is headed "Observations on One Hundred Cases of Midwifery." In it we learn that the forceps were applied in 24 cases (almost 25 per cent). The author blames the use of chloroform, which his patients seem to insist on having, for this excessive interference with what appears to be otherwise normal labours. Writing of the third stage, he states—"After waiting ten to fifteen minutes, I always pass two fingers (rendered aseptic) of the right hand up the vagina, following the cord, and more often than not the placenta is felt presenting at the os, if not already partially in the vagina. If this be so, I grip the fundus with the spread-out left hand, forcing firmly backwards and downward, pulling very gently at the cord at the same time. . . . If the fingers in the vagina feel no progress, I stop and wait patiently for the next uterine contraction, when the same manoeuvres are carried out." Seeing that in all his cases he seems to carry out this method of interference with the third stage, and that he uses forceps in nearly 25 per cent of them, it is not to be wondered at that his patients are very much subject to post-partum haemorrhage. Of the 100 cases, 3 had "very considerable" post-partum haemorrhage, 34 "considerable," 38 "moderate," 19 "slight," 6 "very slight." There was no maternal death. We offer our congratulations to Mr. Barton on his results—not on his methods of treatment.

The other articles are—(1) On Drugs and Remedies, (2) Case of Penetrating Bullet-wound of Skull, (3) Case of Cerebral Disease, (4) Notes on Urine, (5) Case of Disseminated Cancer of Peritoneum, (6) Case of Hydatid Liver opening in the Left Pleura, (7) On Temperatures, (8) On Sea Voyages.

The Roentgen Rays in Medicine and Surgery. By Francis H. Williams, M.D. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901.

This work is intended as a report of the progress made in the use of the x-rays in medicine and surgery, with a chapter on their application to dentistry, and a recommendation for their use in the examination of foods and in the practice of veterinary surgery.

The author devotes himself at first to the x-ray equipment,
including a lengthened description of the various electrical machines, thus unfortunately cumbering a subject of so much interest with a vast amount of unnecessary tedious reading and study of technical illustrations, which we consider quite out of place in such a volume. The theory of the x-rays and their production has already been much better described in various smaller scientific works, in which the studies of light and the spectrum throw a fine glow of interest on the subject.

On the importance of the Roentgen rays in the diagnosis of thoracic diseases, the author, we think, wastes both time and space, since this means of diagnosis has long been acknowledged by physicians to be of little practical value. Phthisis, pneumonia, pleurisy, &c., can all be diagnosed by easier and more reliable methods than by such a scientific process, the results of which depend so much on intricate electrical machines, niceties of vacuum tubes, sensitive plates, and photographic chemistry.

Dr. Williams emphasises the value of this method of diagnosis as affording indications of pulmonary tuberculosis in the earlier stages of the disease, but his illustrations go far to strengthen our view of its inadequacy, and indicate that the work is from the hands of an enthusiast.

Whether or not he puts too little or too much value on the use of the x-rays in medicine, there can be little doubt of their immense importance in surgery, but, curiously enough, this forms the smaller section of the book, the illustrations in which outweigh the text to a great extent, though some of them do not reach the standard of those we have seen elsewhere.

Throughout the volume there are evidences of too much detail, case-citing, and needless illustrations, besides omissions of important practical hints and laws. Thus, in the chapter on calculi, we are told that the ease with which calculi can be recognised by the x-rays depends upon their size and chemical constituents. In an illustration (Fig. 385), the author endeavours to show the various degrees of translucency of the different kinds of stone, but he entirely omits to give any hints how to deal with the law in optics which teaches us that the size of an object and intensity of its shadow are in relation to the distance from the luminant and focal media, which we understand to be the chief difficulty in photographing renal calculi.

He further states that good negatives show the outlines of the soft tissues, such as the muscles, kidneys, &c., and quotes figure 387 as an example of a case of several renal calculi.
occurring in a kidney, but we confess our inability to discern such differentiation of tissues, or to see the calculi, a circumstance which strengthens our belief that this process of diagnosis in its present stage would not commend itself as very reliable.

The best and most interesting part of the book is the chapters on the therapeutic uses of the x-rays, where the reader will find the works of many medical scientists chronicled. We must, however, recognise the evident pains which Dr. Williams has taken in the general production of the volume, which also reflects much credit on the publishers.

**Atlas and Epitome of Special Pathologic Histology.** By Docent Dr. Hermann Dürck. Authorised Translation from the German. Part II. Edited by Ludwig Hektoen, M.D. London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1901.

This volume, which is one of the excellent hand atlases at present being issued by Messrs. W. B. Saunders & Co., is the second of a series of three volumes dealing with special and general pathology by the same author. It deals with the pathological histology of the liver, urinary and sexual organs, nervous system, muscles, skin, and bones in the order mentioned, which, by the way, is not quite that indicated on the title-page. The first three sections—those dealing with the liver, urinary, and sexual organs—are very complete, and characterised by tolerably full descriptions of the various morbid appearances. The relatively smaller section dealing with the nervous system (extending only to twenty pages of text, exclusive of the coloured plates) is explained partly by the omission of descriptions of the distribution of pathological changes in the systemic diseases of the brain and cord, and partly by the fact that tumours of the nervous system are dealt with in the forthcoming volume on "General Pathologic Histology." The coloured plates in a work of this kind are of very great importance, and it may at once be said that, considering the moderate cost of the work, the accuracy with which the tints of various methods of staining have been reproduced, as well as the careful attention to detail apparent in the presentations of structure of different organs and tissues, is worthy of all praise. The plates, however, might have been, in a greater number of instances, inserted to face the text dealing with the subjects represented.

The work of translation has apparently been carefully
carried out; indeed, the text is remarkably free from evidence that the work is a translation from the German.

No errors of any importance have been detected in reading the work. The substitution of “epithelial” for what should evidently be “epithelioid,” however, on page 51, is misleading. Some objection may also be raised to some of the terms and expressions used. Thus, “amyloidosis,” indicating a general amyloid change, and “bacteriemic” as an alternative term for “pyemic” and “septicemic,” appear unnecessary, while “suppurative pylethrombophlebitis” (p. 25) and “small mononuclear lymphocytes” (p. 129), are tautologous. The expression “connective tissue triangles about the portal, hepatic and biliary canals” (p. 35), though sufficiently definite, describes only an occasional microscopical appearance of the portal connective tissue with the structures proper to it. It need scarcely be added that the American mode of spelling is adopted throughout, and such words as “leukocytes,” “amebae,” “anemia,” &c., occur frequently.

The book is one, however, which should prove exceedingly useful, not only to the medical student, but to the more advanced morbid histologist, as references to recent papers of importance are scattered throughout the text dealing with subjects whose histogenesis is not definitely settled.

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ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

SURGERY.

By JOHN PATRICK, M.A., M.B.

A Case of Gangrene following Scarlet Fever. — R. Seubert, of Mannheim (Münchener med. Wochenschrift, No. 2, 1902), reports this case in a child, 7 years of age. It had been a slight attack of scarlet fever, and, after desquamation, a sudden swelling of the whole of the left leg, with patches of purplish discoloration of the skin, took place. Complete gangrene rapidly followed. The leg was amputated, and the large vessels were found to be blocked with purulent thrombi; the muscles were yellow in colour, and permeated by a thick muddy fluid. Streptococci were found in the blood. The patient made a good recovery.

Recurrence after Winkelmann’s Radical Cure of Hydrocele. — Emil Gückel (Centralblatt für Chirurgie, No. 6, 8th February, 1902) recalls a recurrence reported in November, 1901, by Lauenstein, and adds another case, which is the only recurrence of the hydrocele in seventeen consecutive