3. Moral depression from fear, scarcity or famine due to destruction of food.

We may not agree with much in this book, but it is certainly interesting.

Aids to Forensic Medicine and Toxicology—
By Murrell and Robertson. London: 8th Edition. Bailliére, Tindall and Cox. Price 2s. 6d., cloth.

Dr. Robertson here brings out the 8th edition of the work of the late Dr. Wm. Murrell, whose name on this subject was enough to make the fame of any book. The present edition has been rearranged and brought up to date. It is a concise and accurate compilation of an important subject and should be invaluable to students for examination purpose.

Local Anaesthesia.—By Carroll W. Allen.
Octavo pp. 625, with 255 Illustrations. Publishers: T. B. Saunders & Co. (Philadelphia and London).

The work is the outcome of the work Professor Rudolf Matas of Tulane University, Louisiana, U. S. A., where for many years the substitution of local in lieu of general anaesthesia, when possible, has been laboriously studied and practised. Professor Mather had hoped to collaborate with the author, but being prevented has contributed an introduction.

The book is designed to survey the certain field of local anaesthesia, and to remove the reproach that no work of a similar character exists in English surgical literature. The author is to be congratulated on the success he has achieved in this laborious task. He quotes from and freely acknowledges the assistance he has received from many pioneers in the subject, and the result is a truly encyclopedic account of the technique and result of local anaesthesia in all its applications. The earlier chapters are occupied with preliminary matter and the descriptions of various agents. The next to methods and regional anatomy. Spinal analgesia, paravertebral, dental, aural and ophthalmic anaesthesia are considered in the closing chapter. The whole is a monumental record of industry and research. A book of this character is primarily designed for reference, and we recommend it to all libraries and teaching institutions, though individual surgeons will also find it a useful possession. The publishers, Messrs. J. B. Saunders & Co., have contributed their share to the successes of the volume. It is beautifully got up, printed in large type and has an excellent index.

Abdominal Operations.—By Sir Berkeley Moy-NIHAN, 3rd Edition, 1914. 2 Vols. Octavo, pp. 488 and 492 with IX Plates, and 371 Illustrations in the text. Published by W. B. Saunders & Co. (Philadelphia and London).

After a lapse of eight years, a fresh edition of this important work will be welcomed by all surgeons in this country. Considerable revision has been found necessary and certain chapters have been entirely rewritten. The author adheres to his original purpose in describing in detail only those operations and methods which are practised by himself. No gynaecological operations are described, nor are operations on the kidney and bladder or for hernia. Detailed references to mechanical appliances for intestinal anastomosis are also deliberately omitted from this as from previous editions, the distinguished authors believing that their interest is only historical.

The subject-matter is divided into five sections and fifty-one chapters, and by this arrangement the readiest reference is afforded to any detail of operative treatment or procedure. The first section deals with general considerations, and includes amongst other headings, the preparation for and conduit of abdominal operations, complications, incisions and penetrating wounds, the surgical treatment of peritonitis, subphrenic abscess and visceral prolapse. The second section is devoted to operations on the stomach, jejunostomy and gunshot wounds.

The third section to operations upon the intestines, including the appendix. The fourth section to operations on the liver including the gall-bladder and biliary ducts. The fifth and last section embraces operations upon the pancreas and spleen. The whole is an authoritative and detailed description of operative surgery on the abdominal organs.

Reverting to details, it is interesting to note that the author has for some years discarded McBurney’s “muscle-splitting” incision for “interval” cases of appendicitis, in favour of Battle’s incision through the sheath of the rectus. In appendix abscess he lays stress on cutting down over the most prominent point, and in draining the cavity at its most dependant spot, with regard to the hotly debated question of the search for and removal of the appendix in cases of abscess formation, his practice is only to remove it, if it presents at once or after the simplest examination. His conclusion is that “in many cases removal is unnecessary and in almost all involves far too much risk to be desirable.” The probability of a recurrent attack after drainage he places at approximately 10 per cent., of which number “a secondary operation will be needed in perhaps the majority, but it can be performed in the quiet interval after an attack and the risk is accordingly small.” Such direct and lucid teaching characterizes the whole work.

The chapter on the treatment of hepatic abscess is disappointing and behind the times. The author describes the methods relied on by Manson and Cantlie. Therapeutic aspiration is not mentioned. It is no disparagement to these names to say that the more recent experience and results of Anglo-Indian surgeons, as embodied, for instance, in the
special number of the *I. M. Gazette*, might well have been included.

For the printing, plates and illustrations we have nothing but unstinted praise. The type is bold and clear and a pleasure to read, the illustrations are both good and well arranged and the plates are admirably executed. These handsome volumes are yet another fine example of the publishers’ art, fully in keeping with the reputation of the firm of W. B. Saunders & Co. No surgeon’s library will be complete without a copy.

**Episcopal Hospital Reports, Philadelphia, Vol. II.**

This volume constitutes a report for the year 1913 covering over 5,000 in-patients, and 30,000 out-patients, and containing a number of useful papers, covering a wide range, in every department of medicine and surgery. None of these need be specially mentioned. The illustrations are excellent, and include a number of X-ray plates of great interest. The hospital is obviously to be congratulated both on its Board of Managers and on its medical staff.

**Anoci-Association.**—By George W. Crile, M.D., and William E. Lower, M.D. Edited by Amy F. Rowland, Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders & Co. Pp. 259. Price 13s.

Of all the recent advances in surgery, probably none has aroused more general interest than Crile’s kinetic theory of shock and his *anoci-association* technique, which aims at the attainment of the shockless operation. In this book Crile sets out his theory, with the experimental evidence on which it is based and describes the general principles of his technique and their application to particular operations.

In the introductory chapter the author defines the position which he reached in 1897, as the result of his experimental investigations, that shock was the result of exhaustion, the most vital phenomenon accompanying which was low blood pressure. He reviews his subsequent work and shows how he was led to the conclusions on which he based his kinetic theory of shock.

In Part I the theory is explained and the evidence on which it is based is adduced. Every adequate stimulus awakens an *association*, either a *bene-association* or *anoci-association* and the constant effort of the race and the individual is to increase the former and diminish the latter—to reach a state of *anoci-association*. Primitive man in common with most animals had two methods of self-defence—he fought or he ran away. Hence the presence or even the thought of danger occasions discharges of energy by the motor mechanism in particular, and these discharges, when intense enough or protracted enough, produce the extreme conditions called “exhaustion” and “shock.” The essential lesions of shock are in the cells of the brain, the suprarenals and the liver and are caused by the conversion of potential energy into kinetic energy at the expense of certain chemical compounds stored in these cells. A series of beautiful plates illustrate the histological changes produced in these organs by various shock-producing agencies—a preliminary stage of hyperchromatism followed by chromatolysis and signs of exhaustion. When trauma was limited to areas disconnected from the brain by severing the spinal cord or by local nerve blocking, the brain cells showed no changes. When the vitality had been previously reduced by emotion, physical exertion, toxæmia or other cause, greater changes were found after equal trauma. Inhalation anaesthetics *per se* produced no brain-cell changes, but the choice of anaesthetic determined the extent to which the cells suffered from the effects of trauma, all these changes being less marked under nitrous-oxide-oxygen than under ether. That the changes in shock were not due to any alteration in the composition of the blood was shown by cross-circulation experiments on dogs. The comparative shock-producing effects of variations in the type of trauma and the part of the body affected are explained on the kinetic theory.

In Part II we pass to the prevention and treatment of shock. The points in prevention are:—A pre-operative environment calculated to allay fear and inspire confidence; the dulling of the nerves by the administrations of morphine with scopolamine before the operation; a non-suffocating odourless anaesthetic (the author prefers nitrous-oxide-oxygen); the infiltration of every sensitive tissue with 1-400 novocain previous to division; the injection of quinine and urea hydrochloride $\frac{1}{2}$% at a distance from the wound to minimise post-operative discomfort; gentle manipulation, sharp dissection, and the minimum of tissue trauma. In treatment the indications are:—(1) The prevention of further shock by the amelioration or elimination of the conditions which produced it, on the lines indicated above; (2) the support of the circulation by direct transfusion of blood. The succeeding chapters deal with the application of these principles to various classes of operations and indicate where modifications of procedure are desirable.

This book marks a most important advance in surgical technique and we recommend a perusal of it to all who do much abdominal work, though we fear that the complete technique is too elaborate for this country.

**Dispensary Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**—By Dr. Hilda Clark. Publishers: Messrs. Bailliére, Tindall and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London. Price 15s. net.

This work is a study made by Dr. Hilda Clark in order to ascertain what evidence there is to