REVIEWS.

A Manual of Gynaecology for Students and Practitioners. By Samuel J. Cameron, M.B. London: Edward Arnold. 1915.

Past and present members of the Glasgow school have issued books on obstetrics, and now we have the appearance of the first book on gynaecology from the pen of Samuel J. Cameron, the son and assistant of the Regius Professor of Midwifery. There is a tendency for young men to write books before they have had time to gain much experience, but although Dr. Cameron is a young man, he has had an extensive experience in gynaecology, and he is therefore well qualified to deal with the subject.

The book is written from a practical standpoint, and the author has refrained from dealing with the supposed rôle of the ductless glands, and the use of guardian ferments in the diagnosis of uterine conditions. We agree with him on these points, as whatever may come of these investigations, at present the different views are too diverse to be of practical use, and their inclusion in a book of this kind would be superfluous.

The arrangement of the book is on the usual lines, beginning with very valuable articles on the structure and development of the genital organs, written by Mr. W. K. Hutton, Lecturer in Anatomy at Queen Margaret College.

Gynaecology is essentially a surgical subject, and naturally it is treated as such, but the non-operative side of the subject is not lost sight of. The descriptions of the various conditions and the operations are generally clear and concise, and the illustrations are so well done, that one can follow the different steps of the operations with great ease.

In the treatment of that most troublesome condition, prolapse of the uterus with cystocele, the author strongly recommends vaginal fixation of the uterus—the interposition operation. He has done about seventy cases, and all have been successful. If the patient has not reached the menopause, he cuts and ties
the tubes to prevent conception, as a pregnancy would cause serious risks. The illustrations of the various steps of the operation are all that could be desired. Speaking of sterilising patients, we notice that the author recommends this procedure whenever Cæsarean section is necessary in contracted pelves. We consider that this view is too sweeping.

The author does not consider that the ordinary operation of salpingo-oophorectomy is "a suitable one when the diseased tube is embedded deep down in the cellular tissue of the broad ligament, or becomes moored to the pelvic floor by the shrinkage of the meso-salpinx or the broad ligament generally, or becomes so intimately and firmly associated with the lower part of the pelvic cavity that the outer extremity of the tube cannot be defined." He prefers to reach the tube by division of the anterior layer of the broad ligament. The tube is then shelled out as it were. The steps of the operation are very minutely described, and the illustrations make them very clear. There is less risk of injuring the bowel, but some of the adhesions will be left behind. The author maintains that this is not of much consequence, as they subsequently disappear. Undoubtedly this often does occur.

In his chapter on preparation and technique we are glad to see that the author prefers a simple routine. He rightly maintains that "thoroughness, not complexity, is the ideal to be aimed at."

The book is extremely well illustrated, with 232 plates made from original drawings by Mr. A. Kirkpatrick Maxwell, and from photographs and photomicrographs by Dr. J. Shaw Dunn and Mr. Fingland. They reflect great credit on all concerned in their production.

We congratulate Dr. Cameron on having produced a book which is a credit to himself and to the school to which he belongs. We strongly recommend it to students and practitioners.

Obiter Scripta: Throat, Nose, and Ear. By A. R. Friel, M.A., M.D. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1914.

A suggestive little book, and will well repay perusal. Chapter I has useful hints on the management of some common conditions No. 1. E Vol. LXXXIV.
met with in throat, nose, and ear work. Chapter II deals with zinc ionisation in the treatment of chronic purulent otitis media, and of uncomplicated simple empyema of the frontal, maxillary, or sphenoidal sinus. The type of chronic middle-ear suppuration suitable for treatment by ionisation is where the perforation is large enough to allow fluid to run into the middle ear, and in which there is no extensive bone disease or mastoid trouble. In the case of the nasal sinuses, empyema of the antrum when there is not concomitant disease of the ethmoid, or polypi, or diseased bone in the walls of the cavity. It might be urged that in such cases any recognised line of treatment would probably give a good result; but the author claims for ionisation that “one application may be quite sufficient to cure completely a case of chronic ear or maxillary-antrum suppuration.” Full details are given how to carry out the treatment, which may be combined with vaccines. Chapter III is on the treatment of ozæna. Recently the results got by a vaccine of the Perez bacillus have been very encouraging. The author’s method is by intravenous injections of a Friedländer vaccine and ionisation of the ethmoidal cells, combined with cleansing of the nostrils.

One realises that the author has done good work, which is entitled to consideration.

The Road to a Healthy Old Age: Essays Lay and Medical.
By T. Bodley Scott, L.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis. 1914.

These essays, in part at least addressed to the layman, contain the fruits of the long experience of a practitioner of wide culture and of unusual powers of observation. It is one of their merits that in the diseased conditions of which he discusses the prevention Mr. Scott recognises the importance of the individual patient, and that he handles his subject less from the point of view of abstract science than from that of the benefit to humanity which is to be obtained from healthy age. This is not to say that the scientific side of his subject is neglected: there is, indeed, much to be learned from his hints upon the care of the arteries and the general management of
those difficult elderly patients who are reluctantly becoming old; but it adds to the pleasure and profit with which we read his book that we feel him to regard his patients, his readers, and himself as of the same clay, "of human weakness all compact." He teaches us, and we feel it is by example, both how to prolong our days and how to face death.

**Human Physiology. By Professor Luigi Luciani.** Translated by Frances A. Welby. In five volumes. Vol. III, edited by Gordon M. Holmes, M.D. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1915.

Professor Luciani's *Human Physiology* is quite unique. It is not a mere text-book suitable for examination purposes—it is a broad exposition of the principles of physiology in which due attention is paid to the historical aspects of the subject.

This, the third volume of the English Translation, maintains the high standard of the volumes already published. The translation has been made from the fourth Italian edition, which has appeared since the publication of the English translation of Vols. I and II. The editorship of this new volume, which deals with the muscular and nervous systems, was undertaken by Dr. Gordon Holmes.

As regards the three chapters devoted to the physiology of muscle, although they treat the subject in the characteristic Luciani fashion, they are a little disappointing and uneven. The discussion of the problem of muscle contraction, for example, is not very fully dealt with in its modern aspects. On the other hand, two phases of the physiology of muscle are considered with a degree of detail which is quite foreign to the average English text-book, viz., the mechanism of the locomotor apparatus, and the, perhaps, unnecessarily full (it runs to no less than 46 pages) discussion of phonation and articulation.

The part devoted to the nervous system is divided into seven chapters, and is excellent. It opens with a good discussion of the general physiology of the nervous system. Special chapters are then devoted to the spinal cord, the sympathetic system, the medulla, the hind, the mid, and the fore brain. Each is dealt with
in a very complete and clear manner, giving, on the whole, the best review, fairly stated, of the modern views of this branch of physiology available in English. It is to be regretted, however, that some of the most recent English work is not dealt with in greater detail, and that in the consideration of the brain proper the latest work of Pavlov, who has opened up a new and valuable field by his investigations into the conditional and unconditional reflexes, is completely ignored.

Miss Welby's translation, in spite of the many difficulties which must have confronted her, maintains its excellent character.

Text-book of Public Health. By E. W. Hope, M.D., D.Sc.
Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1915.

This is a revised and enlarged edition of the notes on public health formerly appended to Husband's Forensic Medicine, and now issued separately under a new editor. It seems to us that the book falls between two stools—it is too condensed and unreadable for the medical student, and yet not sufficiently informative for the public health student.

Without any preliminary remarks, the subject of site and soil is taken up in the first chapter, and the amount of condensation makes it difficult reading. The second chapter deals with foundations and basements in a very brief fashion. Here the statement is made that "in order to exclude the possibility of damp as well as to keep out ground air it is necessary to completely cover the whole of the site with concrete or some material equally close and hard." Yet a little further on, concrete is not mentioned as a possible material for a damp-proof course. The fact is, of course, that concrete can absorb a large amount of water and become quite damp (witness a concrete pavement after rain), and its use in basements is to restrict the burrowing of vermin and also act as a support to a layer of asphalt, which is truly non-porous to damp. The suggestion on p. 8 that such a concrete layer may serve as a floor itself is not a wise one, as it will be kept damp by the subsoil and give the unfortunate occupants of the hall the discomfort and danger of cold feet.
The language is not always what might be desired. On p. 37 it is stated that "a scanty and insufficient water-supply, or the scanty use of available water, means every form of sickness associated with filth, &c."

Under ventilation, emphasis is laid on the physical and mathematical principles, whilst the practical appliances and the propulsion and plenum systems are inadequately described. The definition of a gas as "an aëriform body characterised by a marked tendency to occupy a larger space," does not seem helpful to the student. It is, besides, inaccurate when thus given without qualification. The chapter on zymotic diseases and hospitals is the most readable in the book. A summary of sanitary law forms the last chapter.

The book is well printed and the illustrations are good.

Public Health Laboratory Work. By Henry R. Kenwood. Sixth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1914.

This is the sixth edition of Professor Kenwood's well-known work, and in it a definite difference from preceding editions has been established by the omission of the bacteriological portion. The work, as formerly, is well illustrated, and the ground is covered at some length. The matter is well displayed, and, as a rule, the usual processes are given and clearly described. There are notable exceptions, however.

In regard to such an important beverage as beer, there is no statement as to how to estimate the alcohol content. Reference has to be made to the beginning of the chapter where, under "Alcoholic beverages," general methods are given to take 300 c.c. and distil over 200 c.c., or to take 300 c.c. and boil down to 100 c.c. This is misleading to the student, who is commonly supplied with a bottle of beer containing about 350 c.c., and has to make several estimations with this amount. The quantities usually taken in these tests are 100 c.c., and they are specially described as the direct and indirect methods of estimation of alcohol content in beer. Again, the method of estimation of formalin given is that by Legler's process (which is inadequately described), and the more commonly known
methods by the use of iodine and ammonium chloride are not referred to, though these are still expected at certain examinations. There is also a tendency to discursiveness at parts, which is quite out of place in a laboratory manual and unprofitable to the student. In spite of such blemishes, the book is one in which the public health student will find much that is of value.

Sanatorium Case Register. Designed by G. M. Mayberry, B.A., L.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis.

We have received from Messrs. Lewis a specimen sheet showing the arrangement of a case register for sanatorium patients, designed by Mr. G. M. Mayberry. The register sheet measures 23 inches by 11 inches. The left half is arranged for a complete record of the patient, including family history, previous illnesses and treatment, signs and symptoms of present illness, general appearance, temperature, weight, and pulse. The lower portion of this side is occupied with diagrams of the thorax (front and back) for recording physical signs on admission and discharge, diagrams of the larynx, and spaces for records of the urine and sputum, the results of tuberculin tests, and general remarks. The opposite page is provided for notes, and space is also allowed for the after-history. Each sheet is printed on both sides, and when bound in books each opening shows a complete record of the case. The registers are supplied in books of 50, 100, 150, or 200 forms, and should prove very serviceable to sanatorium medical officers.

Essentials of Physiology. By F. A. Bainbridge, M.D., D.Sc., and J. Acworth Menzies, M.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1914.

Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. have added to their well known trio of physiology "essentials" by Schäfer, Brodie, and Halliburton this small volume. Although it is perhaps possible
to condense practical teaching into a small volume, particularly where the whole material has to be amplified by practical tuition, it is much more difficult to condense the theoretical side of physiology in a satisfactory fashion. It is difficult to strike the happy mean—either the material is so scrappy that it is inadequate, or else it is so condensed that it becomes difficult of digestion.

As a condensed summary of physiology, or rather of a large text-book of physiology like that of Starling, the present volume is excellent. But the authors have attempted to get too much material into the pages at their disposal, notwithstanding the fact that they have excluded practically all histological detail and description of chemical and experimental methods. If they had adhered to their professed object in writing the book, namely, to bring together "the fundamental facts and principles of physiology"—and there is distinctly room for such a small book—they would have done the science a good service.

In spite of this defect the book gives an admirable survey of modern physiology, clearly and simply written, and well illustrated. It is also provided with a good and full index.

A Text-Book of Insanity and Other Mental Diseases. By C. A. Mercier, M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: G. Allen & Unwin, Limited.

After an interval of twelve years, Dr. Mercier has given us a second edition of his Text-Book of Insanity. The first edition had a ready reception, and was well-suited for the use of the medical student commencing the study of insanity. Of the second edition, which has been entirely rewritten and enlarged, the same cannot be said. Many of the views expounded by Dr. Mercier have not met with the acceptance of his colleagues. In his preface, Dr. Mercier hopes that the book will "give the novice a general idea of the elements of the subject, but if he is reading merely for the purpose of preparing for a qualifying examination, there is much that he will be well advised to omit. It is never advantageous for an examinee to know more than
his examiners about his subject." Possibly not; but surely it will be to his advantage if he is conversant with current ideas and with what is accepted by the majority of workers on the subject as most assured. It is here that fault is to be found with this Text-Book. Mercier's doctrines are novel and expounded in a forcible manner. Their novelty causes attraction but fails to bring conviction.

Part I of the Text-Book comprises 112 pages. One chapter is devoted to the causes of insanity, another to the consideration of conduct and its disorders, and a third to the study of mind, its constitution and disorders. For more than twelve years Mercier has preached the doctrine that insanity is disorder primarily of conduct and not of mind. Disorder of mind that has no influence upon conduct cannot, according to Mercier, be regarded as an indication of insanity. The preacher himself is obliged to admit that his doctrine has made little or no progress towards acceptance. This, however, is not due to any inclination on the part of modern psychiatrists to underestimate the significance of conduct in relation to mind; rather is it due to an initial difference of opinion as to the relation of disordered mind to disordered conduct, more especially as regards the question of priority. If Dr. Mercier chooses to attach to the term insanity a significance different from that assigned to it by consensus of opinion, he need not be surprised if he finds few adherents.

In the chapter devoted to the study of mind, Mercier gives us a psychology that is peculiarly his own. He urges rightly that every alienist should prepare himself for the study of insanity by acquiring a competent knowledge of psychology. Then he goes on to say: "The study of normal psychology, as taught in authoritative text-books, has proved of very little use, I may say of no use at all, in assisting us to comprehend insanity. . . . Nor do I find that a knowledge of psychology as taught in any book on the subject has been of the slightest use to myself or to anyone else, either in the investigation of any individual case of insanity or in the systematic study of insanity at large." Nevertheless, the psychology expounded in Mercier's Text-Book is not good, despite the author's dogmatism and egotism. To one acquainted with modern psychology, it is interesting because of its novelty; but it is no more, if not less,
informative than the psychology which is taught in the ordinary text-books about which he complains.

Part II of the book (pp. 115-311) deals with the various forms, types, and kinds of insanity. It is open to doubt whether the classification here adopted by Mercier represents any real advance, and whether it may not tend to confuse the student. The clinical descriptions are nevertheless good and true, and the treatment advocated is of the best.

Part III (pp. 317-340) deals with the legal relations of insanity.

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Elements of Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.
By Sir William Whitla, M.A., M.D., LL.D. Tenth Edition.
London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1915.

This well-known book has been brought up to date, and, as formerly, deals with the subject practically in two divisions. The first three parts deal with pharmacy, the administration of medicine, and materia medica proper. Then in part four, which may be described as the second division of the book, the author deals with the pharmacology and therapeutics of every official drug. Then follows a résumé of the more important non-official remedies. The book continues to be a safe and sound handbook on the subject, and will appeal especially to the student of medicine preparing for examination.

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Synopsis of the British Pharmacopoeia, 1914. By H. Wippell Gadd, F.C.S. Eighth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1915.

We welcome the new edition of this eminently practical and useful little book. It will be useful alike to the medical practitioner, the student of medicine, and the pharmacist. The Synopsis is well done. Names are arranged alphabetically as in the B.P. Characters, doses, and remarks are given opposite each drug. Tests follow, and then there is a synopsis of the poison laws, weights and measures, and alcohol tables; and other
tables are given at the beginning of the book. A shilling invested in it would be very well spent.

_The Extra Pharmacopoeia of Martindale and Westcott. Sixteenth Edition. In Two Volumes. London: H. K. Lewis. 1915._

It is hardly necessary to say very much in favour of this exceedingly well-known book of reference. It is being constantly kept up to date, and in this edition the changes due to the new B.P. are incorporated. It almost forms a standard—indeed, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise do regard it somewhat in that light, in that its formulæ are regarded as "known, admitted, and approved of" for the purposes of the medicine stamp duty.

As before, Volume I deals with drugs—their characters, their multitudinous preparations, doses, ordinary admitted and alleged actions; and copious references are given to articles in the medical papers. A first-rate index and posological table is appended.

Volume II deals more particularly with analytical matters, standardisation, approximate composition of proprietary medicines, mineral waters, organotherapy, health resorts, bacteriological notes, &c., and is of importance mainly to specialists.

It is, of course, one of the best known books of the kind in the market, and no doubt will continue to be popular both with practitioners of medicine and with chemists and druggists.

_Squire's Pocket Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia._ By Peter Wyatt Squire. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1915.

The first edition of the _Pocket Companion_ was published in 1904, and may be regarded as a condensation of the older and larger form of the book. As before, the arrangement of the drugs is alphabetical, and the monographs on each deal with
its description, production, solubility, medicinal properties, dose, prescribing notes, official and non-official preparations, incompatibles, and antidotes.

The prescribing notes are the most important feature of the Companion, and have evidently been considerably revised. There is a special chapter on therapeutic agents of microbial origin by Dr. R. Tanner Hewlett, which is a model of succinct description. A list of spas, a classified list of mineral waters, and a therapeutic classification of remedies employed in general and specific ailments follows. There is a good index, which, however, is hardly a necessity, owing to the alphabetical arrangements of the drugs in the body of the work.

The book is beautifully printed, and its general get-up is excellent. We can thoroughly recommend this edition.

A System of Clinical Medicine for Students and Practitioners.
By Thomas Dixon Savill, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: Edward Arnold. 1914.

The fourth edition of the late Dr. Savill's System of Clinical Medicine has been called for only two years after the publication of the third, a circumstance which speaks very eloquently of the special place which it fills in medical literature. Its special feature is that it approaches the subject of medicine from the point of view of symptomatology, and works from the symptoms to their causes in the various diseases which may be in operation. The book is already so well known and so widely appreciated that it is unnecessary to say more of it than that the present edition, as heretofore edited by Dr. Agnes Savill, has undergone thorough revision, and will be found in every respect up to date. The most notable change is in the chapter on diseases of the heart, which has been recast by Dr. C. E. Zundel, while Dr. Leonard Williams has revised the sections on obesity and diseases of the thyroid; Dr. F. Foord Caiger the two sections of the chapter on fevers; Dr. J. Campbell the section on bacteriology; and Dr. R. H. Cole that on mental diseases. The book is warmly to be commended to all those who do not already know it.