REVIEW.

NEW BOOKS.

*Epilepsy: A Functional Mental Illness.* By R. G. Rows, M.D., and W. E. Bond, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (8s. net.)

This work was not wholly completed at the time of the death of one of the authors—Dr. R. G. Rows—and Dr. Bond has consequently been compelled to leave much of the text not finally revised. The authors survey completely the evidence of the existence of psychological factors in the production of epilepsy. In this review they emphasise that the pathogenesis of the disease is not known, and that psychological considerations have been almost universally ignored. On this basis they have built up the thesis that epilepsy is a purely functional illness and should be regarded as such, both from the etiological and also from the therapeutic point of view. They regard the disease as a sign of a disturbance of consciousness which is always preceded or accompanied by an emotional state. As regards treatment, they affirm that drugs have no legitimate place, except as a temporary measure. Treatment as carried out by the authors is on purely functional lines, and is divided by them into three stages, viz., explanation, exploration, and re-education. Experience of war neurosis has greatly added to our knowledge of psychology and of abnormal emotional states. Many of the cases cited in the text are those of ex-Service men, and one of the authors is a Senior Medical Officer to the Ministry of Pensions. One cannot but feel that the thesis presented in this work is largely one-sided. It would be of great value and interest to know what percentage of major epileptics treated by the Ministry of Pensions by psycho-analysis alone have shown definite and sustained improvement, as such cases must surely furnish the most valuable evidence for or against a purely functional basis. On the other hand, the authors have undoubtedly a message to convey as regards this disease, and over-emphasis of a truth is often the only method of attracting considered attention. They are undoubtedly to be congratulated on a large amount of laborious, painstaking, and original work, which will form a permanent addition to the literature. The book
is well worth reading if for no other reason than its stimulating attack on our existing prejudices, misconceptions, and general loose thinking in this important realm of neurology.

Sex and Exercise. By ETTIE A. ROUT (MRS. F. A. HORNIBROOK). London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1925. (6s. net.)

This book is really a study of the sex function in women and its relation to exercise, and the author pleads for the regular practice of a suitable selection of daily exercises, with the object of improving physique generally, preventing constipation, and improving women's physical efficiency in marriage, thus helping towards the evolution of a healthy race. The main argument throughout is that amongst primitive peoples these purposes are adequately secured by the native dances, which are calculated to promote healthful activity of the abdominal and pelvic organs, to prevent or remove the protuberant abdomen and overhanging buttocks, and to strengthen and improve the muscles of the pelvic diaphragm. Based on these native dances a number of exercises have been devised by the husband of the author in imitation of these various movements. Full instructions as to their execution are given, and these are illustrated by a series of excellent photographs.

Physical Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest. By JOSEPH H. PRATT, A.M., M.D., and GEORGE E. BUSHNELL, Ph.D., M.D. London: W. B. Saunders Company, Limited. 1925. (24s. net.)

This book is definitely divided into two parts—that on the lungs being from the pen of Bushnell, while Pratt is responsible for that on the heart. In the section devoted to the lungs, opportunity is taken to deal very fully with the ordinary methods of physical examination, and an attempt is made to refer the different signs to their physical and physiological basis. The author is convinced that a sound knowledge of physiological physics provides the best foundation for proficiency in ordinary methods of diagnosis. The signs that may be expected in diseases of the lungs and pleura are separately dealt with, considerable space being devoted to those found in tuberculosis. In the part devoted to the heart a similar method of treatment of the subject is followed. A lengthy chapter deals with the application of physical methods to diseases of the
heart, and an explanation offered for the various signs obtained by percussion and auscultation, while a comparatively small chapter treats of the various instrumental aids, such as the sphygmograph, polygraph, sphygmomanometer and electrocardiograph. Thereafter the lesions of the heart and blood-vessels are treated \textit{seriatim}. We think that in this part the section on the pulse might be amplified with advantage. The teaching on the whole is sound, though some views are expressed which will not meet with universal acceptance. The illustrations are culled from many sources—British, American, and Continental—and only a few are original, suggesting that the authors have trusted more to their reading than to personal experience in some of the matters described. At the foot of p. 464 a line or more of text seems to have been omitted. For those who are interested in the physical basis of the signs of disease the book will be found both interesting and instructive. For those who wish to refresh the memory on some points of physical examination it will supply a want.

\textit{Chronic Rheumatic Diseases.} By F. G. Thomson, M.A.Cantab., M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond., and R. G. Gordon, M.D., D.Sc., M.R.C.P.Edin. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1926. (8s. 6d. net.)

We feel that the authors have performed a service to the profession in presenting such a practical and commonsense view of what is to many practitioners a very bewildering subject. In a book on this subject emanating from Bath the reader will be tempted to anticipate a preponderating space taken up with the special advantages offered for treatment at spas. In this he will be disappointed. The authors, with the advantages and experience gained from practice in a town to which "rheumatic" patients are attracted or sent, have been able to take quite a detached view. The first part of the book deals with the clinical manifestations of fibrositis, neuritis, neuralgia, and arthritis in its many forms. The descriptions are eminently practical and lucid, and leave no doubt in one's mind as to the authors' intention. To clear away any difficulties that may remain regarding differential diagnosis, Part II deals with common mistakes in this connection. Painful conditions arising from static deformities, new growths, diseases of the central nervous system and of the viscera, and other diseases of bones and joints are passed under review in so far as they may be mistaken for the diseases described in the book.
In the part dealing with treatment, drugs, hydrology, climate, physiotherapy, orthopaedics, vaccines, and diet are discussed in chapters that leave little to be desired, and display a commendable breadth of view. The small chapter on hydrology gives a succinct account of the principles underlying spa treatment, and the results that may be anticipated from the different waters available in Great Britain. In view of the tremendous drain on the working efficiency of the adult population arising from chronic rheumatic diseases, as recently pointed out by the Ministry of Health, a practical survey of the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions is doubly welcome. We congratulate the past-president of the British Medical Association and his co-author on their work, and cordially recommend the book to our readers.

Notes on Medical Case-taking. By G. S. Haynes, M.D., M.R.C.P. Cambridge: W. Heffer & Sons, Limited. 1925. (3s. net.)

This little book will provide the student in the medical wards with all that is necessary to enable him to set out the results of his examination in such a form as to merit the title of a clinical report. The examination of the various systems is succinctly dealt with, but, at the same time, no signs seem to have been omitted that the student might be expected to know. The text is interleaved with writing paper for notes. We do not remember having seen a better book of its kind.

The Surgery of Gastro-duodenal Ulceration. By Charles A. Pannett, B.Sc., M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1926. (10s. 6d. net.)

In Professor Pannett's own words, this book "is an attempt to place before the reader a fair view of the problems which confront the surgeon who seeks to bring relief to those victims of a crippling disease, in which medical measures have proved to be of no avail." In 152 pages he succeeds admirably. The best has been gleaned from a vast literature, and is presented in a very readable fashion. Those beginning to take a special interest in gastro-duodenal ulceration will find all the relevant work, already done, discussed, and valued by the author in the light of his own experience. A wide bibliography is appended to each chapter—a useful adjunct for those who wish to read more deeply. After discussing the pathology,
etiology, and symptomatology of gastric and duodenal ulcers in 45 pages, the remainder of the book is devoted to treatment. For gastric ulcer resection is advocated rather than gastro-jejunostomy, and Pean’s operation (Billroth 1) is favoured as leaving affairs more nearly normal than the Billroth 2 operation or Moynihan’s modification of Polya’s method. Surprise is expressed that there are no unpleasant effects after Moynihan’s operation from food passing too quickly into the intestine, but surely the lumen of the jejunum is the true measure of the effluent rather than the length of the anastomotic opening. Duodenectomy is advocated for duodenal ulcer, and in Professor Pannett’s hands has proved considerably more satisfactory than gastro-jejunostomy. Duodenectomy, however, is a very difficult operation, but, as the author says, if its worth be really established, the technical difficulties should not interfere with its adoption, for they would ultimately be successfully overcome. In the hands of the general surgeon who lacks Professor Pannett’s special experience we would expect a much higher mortality from duodenectomy than from gastro-jejunostomy. Six lines from the bottom of page 128, “lesser” curvature should be “greater” curvature. The diagrams and illustrations throughout are very helpful. There is ample room, even in this age of surgical tomes, for a brief treatise, such as this, on an interesting subject, especially when the author can add reasoned comments from his rich experience to guide those with lesser opportunities.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis of the Hip. By G. R. Girdlestone, M.B., F.R.C.S. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1925. (8s. 6d. net.)

This is a purely clinical book which offers a rational and logical plan of approach in such cases, beginning with a preliminary diagnosis made by the practitioner, leading up to a more exact diagnosis by hospital methods, and based on this to suitable treatment in an open-air hospital. Treatment is considered for three stages of the disease—the first being marked by active disease, the second being that of transition, and the third where there are signs of healing. Sepsis and its treatment is dealt with in a separate section. End-results—good, bad, and indifferent—are given along with suggested operations for the relief of deformity or of strain. The book is illustrated by a series of splendid photographs. The author in especial emphasises the fact that perfect recovery depends first and most on the general practitioner
who, by his preliminary diagnosis and consequent prompt action, opens up the way for the specialist. The book will repay perusal, and be useful and suggestive to its readers.

A Guide to the Study of Medicine. By Alexander Miles, M.D., F.R.C.S., LL.D. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1925. (3s. net.)

This brochure has been published with the intention of enabling the student of medicine to realise the unity of the medical curriculum. The nature, scope, scientific value, and practical application of the various subjects are shortly indicated, the correlation of these being clearly shown so that the student may enter on the study of each, not as a separate science, but as part of a co-ordinated whole. The importance of preventive medicine, which is now bulking so largely in modern medical work, is clearly indicated, and in a special section, "Medicine in relation to the community"—public health and forensic medicine—is considered. Finally, the desirability of post-graduate study is strongly urged. The little book should prove a valuable guide to those entering on their medical studies.

Puerperal Septicæmia. By George Geddes, M.D., C.M.Aber. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1926. (12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Geddes gives us in this publication the substance of his thesis submitted to the Royal Society of Medicine in 1924, for which he was awarded the Nicholls Prize. His thesis in the main is that "the incidence of puerperal sepsis is determined by the accident-rate of the district in which the patient resides. Other factors operate to influence the puerperal rate, but the accident factor is the most constant in relation to puerperal fever." Septic wounds follow industrial accidents and become "sources of infection, and infect women in labour through the agency of medical practitioners, because they cannot avoid being contaminated by such wounds in their daily practice." Dr. Geddes, himself a general practitioner, holds that the general practitioners are not responsible, but that they are the victims of their environment. It is difficult for one untrained in the interpretation of statistics to appraise the value of those submitted in this book. Certain figures were examined by Mr. D. Caradog Jones, Lecturer in Social Statistics at Liverpool University, and Dr. Geddes, at whose request the examination was made, quotes him as saying—

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"The results indicate a small positive correlation between the puerperal fever rate and the accident-rate, and between the puerperal fever rate and the erysipelas rate, but in view of the probable errors it is not certain that the results obtained are significant." It is unnecessary to mention minor criticisms, particularly so when the author may be excused these on the grounds that the work was carried out while busily engaged in general practice. There is no doubt that Dr. Geddes has expended a great amount of time in compiling statistics on this much debated problem, and that he has given the matter much thought. This must command our admiration. That he furnishes conclusive proof of his thesis, however, is doubtful.

The Quartz Mercury Vapour Lamp. By J. Bell Ferguson, M.D., D.P.H. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (6s. net.)

There is here an excellent account in small bulk of the chief facts about ultra-violet radiations in general, and of the theory and practice of the mercury vapour lamp in particular. The author gives good reasons for preferring this type for a public health clinic, and his description of his methods and results is sufficiently detailed to enable one to assess their value, and, if desired, to follow his technique. His results seem best in rickets, mal-nutrition, and various forms of tuberculosis, excluding pulmonary, but many other conditions may respond, such as alopecia areata and pyodermias. We can recommend this book as a reliable guide to any practitioner taking up ultra-violet therapy.

Lead Poisoning. Medicine Monographs. Vol. VII. By Joseph C. Aub, Lawrence T. Fairhall, A. S. Minot, and Paul Rezinoff. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1926. (18s. net.)

This book forms the seventh in a series of "Medicine Monographs," and presents an exhaustive survey of the subject divided into four parts, of which Part I deals with chemistry, Part II with pathology, Part III with physiology, and Part IV with the clinical aspect of lead poisoning. Each part contains a summary of the work of other investigators, and describes further advances made by the authors. An extensive bibliography of 500 references is evidence of their patient research into the literature. More attention is devoted to the chemistry and physiology of lead absorption than to the pathology; this accords with the authors' view that further knowledge
of the action of lead on the organism is to be reached by physiological and chemical methods rather than by post-mortem examinations. Absorption of lead from the gastro-intestinal tract is contrasted with that from the respiratory tract. In the former case, the liver removes lead from the portal blood, and thus possesses a relatively high concentration of lead. This mechanism accounts for the small amount of lead in the rest of the body and the late appearance of toxic symptoms under these conditions. In the latter case, lead enters the systemic blood directly, and only a small amount of the total quantity absorbed remains in the liver. All the tissues are bathed with lead in process of transportation, but it is retained permanently in significant amount in the bony skeleton only. A chapter on industrial lead poisoning in the United States is appended, and affirms the view of British investigators that the air of factories must be kept free from lead dust and lead fumes if serious poisoning is to be prevented. The book may be cordially recommended; it should prove a mine of information for the scientist and research worker.

The Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Functional Nervous Diseases. By Paul Bousfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1926. (6s. net.)

Dr. Bousfield has added one more to the numerous small books which certain psychotherapists seem to find it desirable to produce at frequent intervals, apparently regardless of whether they contain any really new material or offer any significant restatement or modification of existing theories or methods. In this case the author appears to be hampered by the fact that he wants to, but cannot, square war neuroses with Freudian theories. His effort to give a civilian setting and a Freudian complexion to what were originally lectures to medical officers of Pensions Boards is not entirely successful.

Nephritis. By Herman Elwyn, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (21s. net.)

The opening chapters of this book deals with the physiology of the kidney, renal insufficiency, hypertension, and uraemia. Thereafter, the author gives a working classification of the various forms of nephritis, which is, however, not very convincing. It is difficult, for example, to appreciate the distinction between "subacute" and
“subchronic” diffuse glomerulo-nephritis. It is concluded that all the symptoms of uraemia are due to poisoning by urea after it has reached a high concentration in the blood and tissues. Lipoid nephrosis is defined as a disease characterised by insidious onset, chronic course, oedema, oliguria, albuminuria, changes in the protein and lipoids of the blood, and the deposit of lipoids in the kidney. Chronic parenchymatous nephritis corresponds to a combination of lipoid nephrosis, with chronic glomerulo-nephritis. It is claimed that, clinically and pathologically, the kidney of mercuric chloride poisoning is a distinct entity. The volume concludes with long chapters on arteriosclerosis, and what is termed “arteriolosclerosis.” This is an interesting book in which the author endeavours to throw light on the difficult problem of nephritis by correlating the clinical phenomena with the pathological changes. There is a good bibliography, but the comparative absence of reference to British workers is notable.

Your Hair and Your Health. By Oscar Levin, M.D. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1926. (6s. net.)

This book, which is intended for the general public, gives a great deal of information about the hair and the scalp in health and disease, and much sound advice as to their care. It is written in a bright and racy style, and is easily read. It should help to abolish such pernicious superstitions as that it is harmful to wash the scalp frequently, and that “you can't grow both hair and brains.” Perhaps the importance of poor hair-growth as a sign of ill-health has been over-emphasised, but as the part played by seborrhoea has received faithful attention, no harm is likely to be done, and we wish this book a very wide circulation.

Guy's Hospital Reports. Vol. LXXVI, No. 3, July, 1926. Edited by Arthur F. Hurst. London: Wakley & Son.

This “Journal” is noted for the high standard it maintains. The present number is worthy of notice because of the interesting biographical sketch of Thomas Addison, one time physician to the Hospital, from the pen of Sir William Hale-White. While this great physician of last century is best remembered by the two diseases which bear his name—Addison’s anaemia and Addison’s disease—the author takes pains to show that he was also the first
to give an account of the symptoms and *post-mortem* appearances of appendicitis; to demonstrate that in pneumonia the morbid anatomy consists in an inflammatory exudate into the air cells; to demonstrate that ordinary inflammation contributes to the changes in the lung in phthisis; and to point out that xanthoma is associated with jaundice. Very appropriately this number also contains, among others, articles on Addison’s disease, the achlorhydria of the anaemia syndrome, and record of a case of apparent recovery from the anaemia and associated achlorhydria. It will be found of special interest to physicians.

**Babies.** By A. G. G. Thompson, M.A., M.D.Cantab., D.P.H. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). (1s. net.)

This little book, it is explained in the foreword, “is in no sense a guide to the treatment of sickness.” It supplies advice to the expectant mother, and treats of feeding, washing, clothing, personal hygiene and habits of the baby. The book is written in simple language, and in its 32 pages there is nothing to which the medical adviser or nurse might take exception. The information it contains should be of special value to mothers who have the assistance of a nurse for a short time only, and who therefore have the direct care of the baby almost from the beginning.

**Points in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis and Cancer of the Larynx.** By Sir James Dundas-Grant. Lecture delivered before the Fellowship of Medicine. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (1s. 6d. net.)

The author contrasts the salient features in the appearances of cancer and tuberculosis, with occasional references to syphilis. As laryngologist to the Cancer Hospital and to the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, he has had extensive experience in this department of the subject. He notes the appearances characteristic of the granulomata in the larynx, the massive infiltration of the tissues in syphilis and cancer with the clean-punched ulcer, contrasted with the moth-eaten ulcer in tuberculosis surrounded by an areola of shiny, oedematous tissue. Attention is drawn to the incidence of two or even three of these conditions in the same larynx. With regard to treatment, the author thinks that the advantages of biopsy far out-weigh any disadvantages, the need for early diagnosis and
treatment being so urgent. In tuberculosis, the most important feature in the treatment is silence, and every step should be taken to obtain this. Methods noted for relieving pain are the application of equal quantities of anaesthesin and orthoform, and the injection with alcohol of the superior laryngeal nerve, with a description of the technique. The indications are given for the various types of operation in cancer of the larynx. The value of radium is discussed in the case of each condition. There are some excellent plates illustrative of various stages of disease of the larynx. This pamphlet is most interesting and instructive.

_Amassage and Medical Gymnastics._ By Beatrice M. Goodall-Copestake. London: Faber and Gwyer. 1926. (1s. 6d. net.)

The writer of this little book has succeeded in presenting the outlines of her subject in an interesting way. The twenty half-tone blocks with which it is illustrated, and the absence of all unnecessary detail in the text, have enabled her to give a surprisingly comprehensive account of the various forms of massage and medical gymnastics in common use. She is careful to point out, however, that practical instruction by a good teacher is the only way of becoming proficient in these methods.

NEW EDITIONS.

_A Manual of Elementary Zoology._ Fifth Edition. By L. A. Borrodaile, Sc.D. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford Medical Press). 1926. (16s. net.)

Dr. Borrodaile's text-book, first published in 1912, has now reached the dignity of a fifth edition. During the last few years there has been a tendency to modify the training in zoology given to the student of medicine. It is being more and more clearly recognised that the course in zoology has two main functions to perform—(1) to provide a sound foundation for, and a graduated approach to, the complicated anatomy and physiology of man; and (2) to provide instruction of an elementary but up-to-date kind in those parts of the subject which are of immediate practical bearing upon medicine. The modern course of zoology for students of medicine is accordingly becoming less of a scamper over the whole field of zoology, and more of an intensive study of such small parts of the subject as justify expenditure of the limited amount of time available in the overcrowded curriculum.
In Borradaile's book we find still a considerable amount of space given to such groups as Ciliata, Mollusca, Echinodermata, and such types as the lancelet, the pigeon, and the rabbit—of relatively minor importance to the student of medicine. Various improvements in detail are noticeable, as, for example, in the description of the kidney of the dog-fish. In the sixth edition it will be well to introduce a further improvement and cut out the erroneous use of the word "nephrostome." On the whole, the book is an excellent summary of elementary zoology, and the present edition keeps up the high standard of its predecessors.

The Principles of Diagnosis and Treatment in Heart Affections.
By Sir James Mackenzie, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., and James Orr, M.B., Ch.B. Third Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1926. (10s. 6d. net.)

In so far as this book was primarily intended to interest general practitioners in recent advances in cardiology the author entrusted the editing of the second edition to Dr. Orr. In the present edition several alterations have been made with the object of making it "representative of the newer teaching of the late author," whose views are more fully expanded in two books recently reviewed in those pages, namely, "Diseases of the Heart," and "Basis of Vital Activity." Dr. Orr has, we think, altered the book as Mackenzie would have approved. Whether the new views are as revolutionary as the author suggests must for the present be a matter for discussion. In some parts, certainly, it is a little difficult to follow the argument as presented. The book is well worthy of perusal, and will provide food for thought.

A Guide to Anatomy for Students of Medical Gymnastics, Massage, and Medical Electricity. By E. D. Ewart. Second Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (12s. 6d. net.)

The first edition of this manual has been revised and supplemented by additional notes, but without unduly adding to its bulk. In scope it aims at preparing the student for the high standard of examination in anatomy held by the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. The illustrations are excellently produced, and the subject-matter clear and concise. This book well serves its purpose, and should be popular.