The Early Diagnosis of Tubercle. By Clive Riviere, M.D., F.R.C.P. Oxford Medical Publications. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1914.

At a time when so much stress is laid upon the necessity for the early treatment of phthisis pulmonalis if the best results are to be obtained, a book such as Dr. Riviere's appears very opportunely. Its contents are not quite co-extensive with its title, for it discusses only the pulmonary form of tuberculosis, as it appears in adults and in children; but it is after all in phthisis pulmonalis that the greatest difficulties in diagnosis arise, and that the importance of early diagnosis is most obvious. Other forms of the disease, for the most part, affect at worst the sufferer alone; the pulmonary form is chiefly responsible for the dissemination of tuberculosis.

Dr. Riviere takes a very complete survey of his subject, and neglects no means of diagnosis which may act even as an adjuvant in the attainment of certainty. Yet it is the chief of the many services which his book performs that it insists so emphatically upon the value of skilful physical examination. To that all other diagnostic methods are subservient, and those who wait for the detection of tubercle bacilli in the sputum before they venture to pronounce must often miss the moment for successful intervention. The modern methods of physical diagnosis are the old methods, but they have acquired an extension of their delicacy through recent elaboration and refinement; and the author is to be thanked for calling attention to the value of Krönig's method of percussing the supraclavicular and supraspinous fossae, and to the paramount importance of a light percussion stroke. He speaks, however, as if light percussion had been introduced by Moritz and Röhl in 1907, and had subsequently been popularised by Goldscheider. It is perhaps the thickness of our hyperborean mists that conceals our doings
from the eyes of the dwellers in the more favoured south; but that such a statement can seriously be made betrays a complete ignorance of the work of Gairdner. That great teacher insisted upon light percussion during the thirty-eight years of his professorship in Glasgow, which came to an end in 1900, and so impressed its value upon his disciples that both during his life and after his death the method has been the continuous tradition of the Glasgow school. Nor was his teaching oral only; the principles of light percussion are expounded at some length in an article he published in the Medical Times and Gazette of 19th December, 1885, an article which he quotes in his last paper, contributed to the Edinburgh Medical Journal in 1904, where it appears on pp. 408-413. It is to be hoped that in the subsequent editions which may confidently be looked for Dr. Riviere will correct what is no doubt an involuntary mis-statement.

The care which the author devotes to his exposition of the physical signs both of apical phthisis and of hilus tuberculosis, a condition common in children and too apt to be overlooked, is equally conspicuous in his analytical discussion of the value of the various accessory methods of diagnosis. The interpretation of skiagrams, the significance to be attached to the results of tuberculin tests, the bacteriological and cytological examination of the sputum, all receive from him judicial handling, while the labour of reading is lightened by his possession of an easy and attractive style. His book is heartily to be commended as a very real aid to the early diagnosis of tubercle.

Diseases of Children. By John McCaw, M.D., R.U.I., L.R.C.P., &c. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1914.

As the author remarks in his preface “it cannot be said that there is a scarcity” of books on this subject, but he believes that there is room for a book of moderate dimensions specially designed for the needs of the medical student and busy medical practitioner, and for such a purpose he has written this textbook. The author has completely fulfilled his task, and has supplied us with a book of some 500 pages covering the whole
field of paediatrics. Within these pages the reader will find mentioned, if not discussed in great detail, all the points of interest to the student of diseases of children. In fact, if we have any fault to find with the work, it is that of being too comprehensive, and we would have been better pleased, and at the same time would perhaps have gained more real instruction, if the volume had been more a personal production drawn from the author's own ripe experience. In a work entirely devoted to paediatrics, and which the writer is attempting to make as concise as possible, we are inclined to think that some valuable space might have been saved by leaving out of consideration the specific fevers. In most text-books on general medicine the student will find them discussed in sufficient detail for his purpose, and the space could have been used here for the discussion of some more specialised questions.

Anatomy, Descriptive and Applied. By Henry Gray, F.R.S. Eighteenth Edition. Edited by Robert Howden, M.A., D.Sc., M.B., C.M. Notes on Applied Anatomy revised by A. J. Jex-Blake, M.B., and W. Fedde Fedden, M.S. With 1,120 Illustrations, of which 431 are Coloured. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1913.

It says not a little for the intrinsic value of any work, medical or otherwise, that it has lived to an eighteenth edition. The fact is one which would at once arrest our attention, even if we were not already aware of the popularity of the work with many successive generations of students.

If we ask ourselves the reason of such popularity, the answer is that the author tried, and successfully, to simplify both in the text and by the aid of illustrations a subject which, view it how we will, is found difficult by the large majority of students. In the course of time successive editors took up the task of issuing fresh editions, and that they have succeeded in carrying on the policy of the author is abundantly evident from the popularity which the work continues to enjoy. And be it noted that in simplifying the subject of anatomy neither the author nor editors have
produced a "cram-book." Its 1,200 and odd pages are sufficient refutation of such a suggestion.

The work is already so well known that it is unnecessary for us at the present day to draw attention to its peculiar features. There are certain points, however, in the new edition which call for mention. First of all we note the use of English translations of the Latin terms of the Basle nomenclature. Where this nomenclature differs materially from the older terminology the latter has been added in brackets, and to minimise inconvenience a glossary has been provided; this the reader will find of great service.

Another new feature in the present edition is the bringing together into a special chapter of the paragraphs on surface anatomy, which formerly were scattered throughout the text.

Some of the older figures have been replaced by new drawings. Many additional drawings, the majority of them from original preparations, have, however, been added.

This edition maintains the high standard of the work, and we venture to prophesy for it the wide circulation which it merits.

A Companion to Manuals of Practical Anatomy. By E. B. Jamieson, M.D. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1913.

This book has been written to provide an account of naked-eye anatomy, expressed in terms of the Basle nomenclature. Its small size necessitates the use of condensed language and contractions—e.g., lig. for ligament, inf. for inferior—but this is an advantage, as the book is intended for use in the dissecting-room.

It is written for use as a companion to a manual of practical anatomy, especially for revision during dissection of a "part." The various structures have been described under their systems, but a detailed account of the relations in the more important regions has been included. At the end a very brief résumé of the embryology, according to prevailing ideas, of most of the organs has been inserted,
The Basle nomenclature, or an equivalent English translation, has, with a few exceptions, been used throughout, but the old terminology has been inserted in brackets. The fact that the author has had considerable experience as a lecturer and demonstrator of anatomy ought alone to ensure the book's usefulness to the student of practical anatomy.

Contributions to Clinical Medicine. By Sir James Sawyer, M.D., F.R.C.P. Fifth Edition. Birmingham: Cornish Bros. 1912.

But few words are necessary to recommend Sir James Sawyer's well-known Contributions to Clinical Medicine to the notice of the profession. That a book has reached its fifth edition is a better testimonial to its popularity and usefulness than many commendatory expressions, and it will suffice to say of the present issue that those who are already familiar with the volume in its earlier shape will find in it all those qualities which first attracted their favourable attention, and that the added material, which includes, among other essays, the substance of Sir James Sawyer's Lumleian lectures on diseases of the heart, will make it amply worth their perusal in its newer form; while to those unacquainted with the author's writings it will commend itself as containing, in many departments of medicine, valuable observations derived from the wide practical experience of a thoughtful physician.

The Essentials of Chemical Physiology. By W. D. Halliburton, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Eighth Edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1914.

This is the eighth edition of a very excellent practical book. The matter has been thoroughly brought up to date, a good selection, on the whole, being made of the most modern analytical methods. The present writer whole-heartedly endorses Professor Halliburton's dictum that "it is far better
that a student should know thoroughly one method for estimating sugar than have an imperfect smattering of several." It is a pity, however, that in the description of methods, although van Slyke's method for the estimation of amino-nitrogen is given in detail, the admirable micro-methods of Folin are not dealt with—methods which can readily be adapted for clinical use, as they permit of the examination of the urine for total nitrogen and urea being done without a fume chamber. The section devoted to respiration and blood gases gives a most clear and succinct account of the most recent findings.

The book is well suited for the use of both the junior and the advanced student.

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The Biology of Tumours: The Bradshaw Lecture, 1912.
By C. Mansell Moullin, M.D., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1913.

Mr. Mansell Moullin's Bradshaw lecture, which has been published by request of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, deals with the interesting subject of the biology of tumours.

At the outset the lecturer expresses the opinion that there is no hard and fast line between innocent and malignant tumours. Metastasis, a prominent characteristic of so-called "malignant" tumours, is merely an accident of growth. In benign tumours the cells have reached a more advanced stage of organisation, and can no longer exercise their primitive power of detachment and autotransplantation. From a general consideration of tumours he looks upon them as leading a parasitic existence, but not as being caused by parasites. In considering the question of their biology it is necessary first of all to try and form a clear idea of the nature and origin of the laws controlling the growth and development of the body, these being the laws that are set aside by tumour tissues.

The force regulating and controlling the development of the organism is the mutual influence of germ cells and somatic cells upon each other and upon their fellows,
Tumours do not obey the laws framed by this force; they spring from, and live on, the parent body. And as the parent body consists of both germ cells and somatic cells, so tumours may arise from either of these groups. Germ-cell tumours are comparatively rare, the vast majority of tumours arising from the somatic cells, or from structures developed from them. Such tumours usually arise long after the early stages of life, and they become more and more common as age advances. The great power of multiplying possessed by tumour cells may be due to the force which, properly, should raise the differentiation of the cells being now available for growth.

How is it that the tumour cells are able to assert themselves and shake off allegiance to the other tissues? The force controlling development ceases to act, while growth continues unimpaired, and the result is a tumour. "Evolution stops when the power of hereditary transmission fails; but so also does involution." In this way fragments of organs which should disappear persist, and by growth become the nucleus of tumours. Further, just as the transmission of some special feature may be seen in a family, so in a family the controlling force may fail, and in several members of the same family for generation after generation we may find tumours growing.

Why does controlling power fail? From mere exhaustion, or from excessive action, as when enormous production of young cells occurs with great rapidity in response to some persistent chronic irritation.

Such are the views which Mr. Moullin elaborates in his brochure, and those who are interested in the subject will find in its pages much matter for thought.

The Administrative Control of Small-pox. By W. M'C. Wanklyn, B.A., M.R.C.S. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1913.

Essentially this book should be read in conjunction with the author's previous volume on "How to diagnose small-pox," but even by itself there is much interesting material on the
question of how best to prevent or stop an outbreak of this disease. From long immunity from serious outbreaks we are perhaps inclined to think too little about this disease, but with the increasing percentage of the unvaccinated population of these islands the danger of an epidemic of considerable extent and virulence is becoming more and more apparent. Certainly the policy of "locking the stable door after the steed is stolen," at any time futile, is even more disastrous when we are dealing with a disease which, should it again become epidemic, may have a heavy mortality list appended. The 83 pages comprising this volume contain all the essentials for meeting any threatened outbreak of the disease, and therefore the book should be in the hands of all who are dealing with the public health in any of its many branches.

The book is commendably free from statistics or tables, and is eminently readable and informative on just those points which are essential.

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports. New Series. Edited by Dr. J. J. Perkins and Mr. C. A. Ballance. Vol. XL. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1913.

The fortieth volume of the St. Thomas's Hospital Reports contains—besides the statistics and abbreviated case summaries from the medical, surgical, and gynaecological departments, and from the various special services of the hospital—a series of reports on subjects of surgical interest, such as recurrent hernia, the after-results of gastro-jejunostomy, cases of imperforate anus, and the results of laminectomy for special caries with paraplegia, which are of considerable statistical value. It also includes the Salter Research Report for 1911, by Dr. W. W. C. Topley, who has investigated "the action of certain drugs, toxic bodies, toxins, and microorganisms on the fragility of the red blood corpuscles of man and animals." The effects of arsenic, mercury, and the Roentgen rays were studied with uniformly negative results; bile salts altered the fragility only in doses so large as to cause almost immediate death; injections of various pyogenic organisms increased it to a moderate extent; but the increase
was much most notable in connection with injections of specific haemolytic sera.

The hospital statistician will find much to interest him in the analysis of the wealth of clinical material afforded by St. Thomas's Hospital.

**Protein and Nutrition: An Investigation.** By Dr. M. Hindhede. London: Ewart, Seymour & Co., Limited.

This book is one of very considerable interest both to the scientific and lay reader, but it falls between the stools of popularity and science. Dr. Hindhede, as the result of his own personal experience in Denmark, very early came to the conclusion that the existing system of dieting, with its high protein content, was faulty, and, owing to some success with experiments on the feeding of the milch cows of the West Jutland farmers, he was eventually put in charge of a special Government laboratory for research in nutrition.

The book is devoted to the praise of the nutritive value of the homely potato. Dr. Hindhede makes it the staple article of diet in his own home; he does not exclude meat entirely, but uses it very sparingly. He preaches the doctrine, initiated by Chittenden, of the low protein intake, although not to the extent advocated by the American worker—a perfectly sound position to take up in the light of modern research.

Unfortunately the book suffers, from the scientific point of view, from three marked defects—(1) it is written in rather a popular style, and large parts are devoted to quite unnecessary discussions which have no direct bearing on the question under review; (2) it gives no full data of his experiments, from which alone the true scientific value of his work can be deduced; and (3) it is marred by a bitter attack on other workers in the field of metabolism. His attack on the work of Voit is particularly to be regretted. Dr. Hindhede seems to forget that it was due to the genius of Voit that the problem of protein metabolism assumed so early a definite form, that it was due to Voit's efforts in attacking this problem in so dogged and sincere a fashion
that further research, including that of the writer of the book under review, was possible. Although it is true that some of Voit’s dogmatic statements have had to be discarded, this does not suffice to render his memory open to the vicious onslaught of such a worker as Dr. Hindhede.

The translation has been, on the whole, efficiently done.

A Manual of Practical Chemistry. By A. W. Stewart, D.Sc. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1913.

This little book has been compiled for students of public health, and is arranged especially for those studying for the D.P.H.

Essentially the book consists of short descriptions of chemical processes, a knowledge of which is required by students in practical public health laboratory work, and may be found useful where such work is undertaken without proper instruction and supervision. On the other hand, the descriptions as a rule are too condensed for the student to follow without supplementary instruction, and the raison d’être of the book is thus largely neutralised.

The student is recommended (page 3) to use a tared watch-glass with the balance when weighing substances, but in all probability the author really means that two watch-glasses of exactly equal weight should be employed; this is certainly the routine in most laboratories. On page 6 the test for acetic acid is not well described, and there are other and better tests. On page 13, in the estimation of oxygen in the atmosphere, the student is told to “place the two tubes under the same pressure”; how this is done is not stated.

On page 73 appears “Part VI—Microscopical work.” It is not clear why microscopical work should appear at all in a book ostensibly on practical chemistry.

The interleaving for additional notes will be found quite essential. There is no index.