REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

Technique and Results of Grafting Skin. By H. Kenrick Christie, M.S.N.Z., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1930. (7s. 6d. net.)

In this small book are detailed the methods employed, and the results obtained, in the repair by skin grafts of various conditions, the chief among these being chronic ulcer of the leg. The writer has a decided preference for the "whole" skin or Wolff type of graft, and the first illustration in the book indicates the reasons for this preference. As regards technique, stress is laid, and rightly so, on the importance of a preliminary Wassermann reaction in cases of leg ulcer. As regards the operation itself and after-treatment, Mr. Christie advocates the thorough excision of the ulcer, employing a tourniquet, carefully applied, and spinal anaesthesia, the graft being held in position by stitches and superimposed Stent composition left on for ten days. While the Wolff graft, as already stated, is the author's preference, the other types of grafts are described and illustrative cases are given of all methods. The book is instructive and well illustrated. It is easily read, and being devoid of padding is suitable for medical students and busy practitioners.

Modern Psychotherapy. By Emanuel Miller, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M. Modern Treatment Series. London: Jonathan Cape, Limited. 1930. (5s. net.)

Dr. Miller has attempted to provide a brief general survey of the principal theories and methods on which present-day psychopathology and psychotherapy are based. He has not undertaken the detailed exposition or critical analysis which, as he says, could become comprehensible only through actual contact with patients. The theoretical discussion may seem somewhat obscure and unconvincing to those with little previous knowledge of the subject, especially as no illustrative cases are described, and the author has recognized that his endeavour to maintain an eclecticism exposes him to attack by the staunch adherents of the various more or less opposed theories. His own particular bias is perhaps more obvious than he has realized.
The book, however, will serve a useful purpose as an introduction to the subject, and its emphasis on the importance of psychological factors in all medical work is convincing and timely.

Colour and Cancer; An Investigation. By C. E. Iredell, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1930. (6s. net.)

The author of this most unusual volume describes a novel method of treating cases of malignant disease for which actually curative results are not claimed, the effects being for the most part improvement in the general condition with relief of pain. At the end of the book reports are given on 50 patients so treated, the majority being cases of cancer of the mouth or breast: in a few cases a change for the better in the local condition is claimed, but in the majority the patients' sensations seem to be the chief indication of reaction. It should be noted, however, that all but 14 of these cases had previously been exposed to x-rays or radium, and that in a few cases Coley's fluid had been administered. The technique cannot be detailed here, but the effects are evidently produced, as a rule, by the exposure of a limited area of skin on the abdomen to certain colours, the beam of light being interrupted by perforated discs rotating at a definite speed. The full description and the means by which the effect may be intensified, such as including the patient in a wireless circuit with crystals or valves, seem distinctly fantastic, and we can only refer those who are interested to the book itself.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh: Annual Report of the Curator of the Laboratory for the Year 1929. Curator—Sir Robert Philip, M.D., L.L.D.; Superintendent—A. G. McKendrick, M.B., D.Sc.

During the year twenty papers were published on researches relating severally to pathological, bacteriological, chemical, physiological, and statistical problems. Space does not permit of giving in detail even the titles of the papers, but special mention might be made of the studies of pneumonia in childhood which appeared in the Archives of Disease in Childhood. Of work not published at the date of issue of the report are the following:—(1) An investigation into the relationship of tumour formation to the normal growth of the mamma; (2) the standardization of tuberculin; (3) a statistical study of anti-rabie
treatment; (4) histological investigations on diseases of the skin; (5) the effects of inoculation of bacterial emulsions on the rabbit’s brain; (6) the buffering power of milk; (7) the estimation of ferments in digestive juices. The directors of the laboratory are to be congratulated on the quality and quantity of the work produced, and on the maintenance of the standard which has so long been associated with the institute.

NEW EDITIONS.

Physiological Principles in Treatment. By W. Langdon Brown, M.D., F.R.C.P. With the Collaboration of R. Hilton, M.B., M.R.C.P. Sixth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1930. (10s. 6d. net.)

The first edition of Dr. Langdon Brown’s well-known book was published over twenty years ago, and new editions have appeared from time to time so as to keep in line with the rapid advances in physiology and therapeutics. The sixth edition, which is now published with the collaboration of Dr. R. Hilton, has been thoroughly revised, particularly the sections on diabetes, the parathyroids, vitamins, the rôle of hydrochloric acid in digestion, fractional test meals, and the treatment of Graves’ disease, whilst new work on the ovarian hormones and the liver treatment in pernicious anaemia has been incorporated. A perusal of the volume will impress the reader with the importance of recognizing the close association between physiology and practical medicine, and the student or practitioner will find herein a great deal of information which will prove of the utmost value in the elucidation of many of the problems of modern medical treatment. The subject-matter has been carefully selected by the authors; and they are to be congratulated on the presentation of a lucid exposition of the principles of rational therapeutics.

Aids to Histology. By Alexander Goodall, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1930. (3s. 6d. net.)

As in previous editions, Dr. Goodall gives a simple description of the histological structure of the various tissues and organs. The volume is offered as an elementary guide for junior students, and, as such, its clarity and brevity are commendable.