NEW BOOKS.

The Biology and Treatment of Venereal Disease; and the Biology of Inflammation and its Relationship to Malignant Disease. By J. E. R. M'Donagh, F.R.C.S.(Eng.). Pp. 590. 54 Plates and Figures in the Text. London: Harrison & Sons. 1915.

This is an important-looking and well-illustrated volume which presents the author's views upon the above subjects. Five hundred pages are occupied with the consideration of venereal diseases; and the remainder, apparently a somewhat meagre allowance, suffices for the discussion of the second group of important problems.

The chapters dealing with the clinical aspects of syphilis, ulcus molle, and gonorrhoea are, as was to be expected, well written and suggestive, an important feature being the attention given to generalised gonotoxic and gonococcal conditions. The chapters on the Wassermann reaction and other tests for syphilis, and on treatment of syphilis, on sexual neurasthenia, on venereal disease in relation to marriage and to public health, are thoroughly well done.

The rest of the book is occupied with contentious matter. In the earlier chapters the author describes the morphology and biology of the bodies which he regards as the causal organism of syphilis.

The author throws overboard so easily, as obviously and palpably incorrect, the views and statements of noted authorities when they run counter to his own opinions, that the reader who knows the careful work of these authorities is provoked to opposition, to criticism, and to scepticism as to the validity of the author's own contentions. He discusses in very full detail the staining and micro-chemical characters of the leucocytozoon syphilidism, as he names his "body," and places it with the coccidia. Nowhere, however, does he indicate that he has tested known coccidia or closely related forms of protozoa by similar tinctorial and chemical methods, or that he has examined in similar fashion other well-recognised inflammatory lesions and granulomata in which pyknosis, karyorrhexis, karolysis, and budding of the nuclear chromatin may occur. Hence we cannot accept fully his claim to have disproved Hoffmann's opinion that his bodies are "körpereigene" structures. Our belief in the correctness of his statements, as a whole, is not strengthened when we read his views on the development of the lymphocyte from endothelial cells, supported as they are by illustrations (Plate XXI.) of two large phagocytes which have ingested polymorphs, which are in course of digestion in the vacuoles of the phagocyte. These he describes as developing lymphocytes.

His arguments are certainly ingenious, but not always mutually compatible, or in agreement with recognised facts of pathology. For example, we read: "It is quite conceivable that a patient could develop
diphtheria, if a colony or two contaminated a culture of staphylococci, for instance, which had been used for inoculation purposes” (p. 60).

“It must be obviously incorrect to say that a positive Wassermann reaction means that there are spirochaete in the body” (p. 97). We should agree if he had written “necessarily” after the word “means,” but this statement has to stand with the following:—“The action of treatment is primarily to destroy the spirochaete” (p. 122); “the spirochaete pallida is not the cause of syphilis, and its destruction does not result in the cure of the disease” (p. 347); and “the spirochaete are mainly responsible for the lesions” (p. 122).

“Spores of the leucocytozoon syphilidis do not give rise to inflammation, and therefore the histological structure of any tissue in which they are present may remain unaltered” (p. 121). “The longer the spores are present in any one spot, the more chronic inflammatory changes will the local vessels exhibit” (p. 123).

We are not greatly attracted by the author’s views on the biology of inflammation and its relationship to malignant new growth, and chiefly because so many statements strike us as inaccurate. As examples we may cite a few of these. “When an enormous number of endothelial cells is formed, they must ultimately either degenerate or become malignant” (p. 16). What about those rare cases of tuberculosis of lymphatic glands, which may go on for many years, and yet, when examined, show the sinuses packed with masses of endothelioid cells without any visible trace of degeneration, and certainly without malignant transformation? “Chronic interstitial nephritis ... is usually only one of the symptoms of a generalised arteriosclerosis” (p. 153). Because, amongst other reasons, “in Hodgkin’s disease the glandular enlargement may be enormous, yet there is no lymphocytosis” (p. 528), he argues that all lymphocytes circulating in the blood are probably of bone-marrow origin. “The same appearances are to be met with in glands removed from cases of Hodgkin’s disease, and from the so-called lympho-sarcomatosis” (p. 540). “The term ‘leucæmia’ is an unfortunate one, as it means only leucocytes in the blood” (p. 535). “There are two kinds of malignancy, one which affects embryonic cells, the other which affects mature cells” (p. 529). “The more embryonic tissue is, the greater its activity, and hence the less benign it is” (p. 524). His example of embryonic malignancy is the rodent ulcer, hence, presumably, this is an extremely malignant new-growth. There is no reference to the views recently put forward that rodent ulcer may possibly not be a tumour growth proper.

The lymphocyte is the most important protective cell (chap. xlvi.); it is not phagocytic (p. 529). Elastin is a degeneration product of connective tissue cells (p. 530).

In discussing the “so-called parasites of cancer,” the author (p. 506) states dogmatically that they are neither protozoa nor nuclear degenera-
tions. They develop from the nucleolus. The expelled nucleolus increases in size until a cell is seen which can be divided into two parts—protoplasm and a nucleus. This is surely something new in pathology. And he remarks the resemblance of this cell to what he terms his syphilitic female gametocyte. We can well believe it.

Such examples might be multiplied from the text, but we have said enough to show that while we have nothing but praise for the purely clinical portions of the work, we still maintain grave doubts as to the pathology of these diseases as propounded by the author.

Medical Applied Anatomy. By T. B. Johnston, M.B., Ch.B. Pp. xiv. + 436. With 146 Illustrations. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1915. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This book is another important addition to the Edinburgh Medical Series, and the Medical Editor is to be congratulated on suggesting the subject and securing the services of such a popular lecturer as the author. The book is based on a series of post-graduate lectures delivered during the vacations of the last few years by Dr. Johnston. He was recognised by graduates as one of the most lucid and practical of our lecturers, and it is a pleasure to welcome the very much expanded lectures in book form.

The book is divided into eight chapters, and the subjects are dealt with from the point of view of systems—not regions—as is usual with surgical anatomy books. The first chapter deals with the nervous system very fully—it comprises nearly half the book. We think the diagrams might have been considerably improved in this section, as well as in some of the other sections.

The chapters on the heart and lungs are short, and give a good deal of useful information. No mention is made of Rotch's sign in pericarditis with effusion, and Grocco's triangle in pleurisy with effusion. We are not told what constitutes Lombardi's "Varicose zone of alarm."

Dr. Johnston has introduced the Basle terminology throughout the book, and along with this has placed the familiar names to which all but the junior members of the profession are accustomed. We would suggest that in a future edition the value of the book might be greatly enhanced if the author collaborated with a practising physician who could submit clinical phenomena for anatomical explanation.

The Anatomy of the Human Skeleton. By J. Ernest Frazer, F.R.C.S.(Eng.). With 219 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1914. Price 21s. net.

When the reviewer read the preface of this book he turned to the contents with interest, the writer's object being to get the reader
to "think of the bones as they exist in the body rather than as 'they lie' on the table before him." Whether the object of the author has been achieved is doubtful. The numerous illustrations are distinctly original, and if they will encourage anatomists and surgeons to make drawings for themselves they will have achieved an excellent purpose.

The amount of work expended by the author certainly deserves the results he hopes for, but we are afraid that "dry bones" will always be "dry bones" however they are served. The advice given in the preliminary chapter is very sound. "The majority of the figures . . . are introduced as guides; . . . anatomy cannot be learned from pictures."

The Clinical Anatomy of the Gastro-Intestinal Tract. By Wingate Todd, Pp. 264. With 32 Illustrations. Longmans, Green & Co. 1915. Price 6s. net.

In this volume the author deals chiefly with the results of recent investigations which have not yet found their way into anatomical text-books. With the exceptions of the mouth and pharynx, each part of the alimentary canal and its associated glands is dealt with from the point of view of topography, structure, vascular and nerve supply, malformations, and physiological movements.

The material has been carefully chosen. Those parts dealing with movements in the gastro-intestinal tract will be especially helpful in the interpretation of radiograms; and the bibliography appended will serve as a useful guide to original articles.

On account of older material having been largely omitted, this volume cannot be regarded as a comprehensive treatise. To senior students, however, who are desirous of bringing their studies well up to date, the book can be confidently recommended.

Essentials of Physiology. By F. A. Bainbridge, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., and J. Acworth Menzies, M.D. Pp. viii. + 434. With 134 Illustrations. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1914. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This volume is one of a series issued by the publishers, of which those on histology, morbid histology, and chemical physiology have preceded it. No indication is given as to the respective shares of the joint authors (both under the wing of Durham University) in its production. It is intended for the student preparing for a pass examination, and should be adequate for that purpose. Histology and accounts of chemical tests are reduced to a minimum, as the student is expected to have other books of reference in these departments. The book gives a clear and well-balanced account of the
subject, and is well up to date. The chapter on the organs of sense is particularly good, though it is startling to find that the description of voice and speech forms part of the section on the sense of hearing. There is an interesting paragraph on "second wind"—a subject in which the student is keenly interested, but which we do not remember to have seen discussed in a book of this class. We fear that the "strong beam of light focussed on the sclera," which is said to show Purkinje's images will prevent the student's discovering that the domestic candle is quite sufficient for the purpose. *Food-stuff* is used, legitimately no doubt, of ordinary articles of diet (milk, bread, etc.): it has usually been applied in physiological works to the proximate principles of foods, and confusion may be caused. On the whole, we have found the work careful and accurate. The illustrations are for the most part borrowed (with due acknowledgment); a few of them are effectively tinted. There is a good index, though we failed to find there vitamines or deficiency diseases, which are discussed in the text.

*Human Physiology.* By Professor Luigi Luciana. Translated by Francis A. Welby. In Five Vols. Vol. III. Muscular and Nervous Systems. Edited by Gordon M. Holmes, M.D. Pp. x. + 650. With Numerous Illustrations. London: Macmillan & Co. 1915. Price 18s. net.

In these days of condensed text-books it is a relief to open a physiology in which the subjects are discussed in accordance with their physiological and scientific importance, and not with an eye to answering examination questions. It would be indeed difficult to get another physiologist who could treat such a variety of subjects with that intimacy of detail which only belongs to the researcher, and is, as a rule, only found in a monograph on a particular theme.

Volume III. is quite up to the standard of the previous volumes, though perhaps the subject-matter may not appeal so widely to practitioners of medicine. The chapter on articulation and phonation contains much that is new to English readers.

An especially attractive feature is the bibliography at the end of each chapter; to this has been added a list of recent English publications on the subject. To the advanced student this is of great value, guiding him to the original papers and facilitating his selection.

The method of introducing a subject by giving a short account of the work and views of the various workers on the subject not only keeps alive the classical experiments, but leads us by a rational method to a better appreciation of the value of modern work.

The book is well indexed, an index of subjects and of authors being given.
X-Rays: How to Produce and Interpret Them. By Harold Mowat, M.D. Pp. xii. + 204. With 106 Illustrations. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1915. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This little book, intended for beginners, contains much information clearly put, which should prove useful.

It is divided into two parts. Part I., which is concerned with the production of X-rays, deals fully—and, on the whole, carefully—with such subjects as the tube and its management, the localisation of foreign bodies, and the technique of examination. A clearer definition of the "standard position" and advice as to the points over or under which the tube should be centred in radiographing the normal would have proved useful here, and we see here too that the importance of the part under examination being absolutely still during the exposure is not insisted upon. Sandbags placed upon the plate would hardly effect this, nor would they ensure good apposition.

Part II. deals with the interpretation of the screen appearances and skiagrams, and the greater portion of this section is devoted to the spores and digestive tract, regions which the author rightly considers to be of outstanding importance, and for the radiographic examination of which he gives most useful hints, the remaining chapters dealing shortly with the urinary system and diseases and injuries of bones and joints.

The fact of the author being on service accounts for some sections receiving less attention than they deserve, and for minor faults; but to the beginner who does not wish to be entirely "spoon-fed" we can heartily recommend this book. It is well printed, and, with some few exceptions, the illustrations are very good.

Differential Diagnosis. By Richard C. Cabot, M.D. Vol. II. Pp. 709. With 254 Illustrations. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. 1915. Price 24s. net.

This volume is a continuation of the method of discussing the differential diagnosis of symptoms by means of illustrative cases, which was adopted by the author in the first volume of his work. In this, the second volume, nineteen common symptoms have been selected for illustration. They are of the most varied kind, and embrace all the different systems of the body. Each symptom is discussed in a systematic manner in a short section which deals with the method of investigating the particular complaint, and which indicates the kind of cause which is probably responsible. Thereafter follows a series of cases, selected to illustrate all or nearly all the possibilities. Each case is recounted under three main headings. First, the symptoms and signs, as shown by the patient's history and by examination, are given in detail, together with any points in the family history and previous health
which may be of importance; then follows a brief discussion on the case; finally the outcome is detailed. Many of the cases described are of great complexity, and if studied in detail and with care, it is of much interest and benefit to form a diagnosis from the data supplied, and then compare it with the outcome of the case. The book is illustrated profusely with diagrams and photographs. The former are extremely artistic, and add greatly to the ease with which the cases may be followed. The photographs are not quite so good, and many are totally devoid of the sense of proportion or of perspective. We would instance Fig. 21 as an extreme example. In the text there are very few errors. In Case CXLII. the blood-count there given is that of a severe pernicious anaemia, but no mention is made of it in the diagnosis, which is given as ulcer of the stomach, and was confirmed post-mortem. Perhaps there is a misprint in the figures. The book is one of extreme interest, and is unique in the manner in which the subject of diagnosis is treated.

NEW EDITIONS.

Text-Book of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. By R. J. M. Buchanan, M.D. Eighth Edition. Pp. 417. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1915.

This is the eighth edition of what was originally Husband’s Medical Jurisprudence, and, needless to say, it has undergone many alterations in the hands of the present editor. In many respects it is well able to stand comparison with the smaller text-books in forensic medicine, and the part dealing with toxicology is especially well done, and should prove useful to students preparing for examination.

As is apt to occur when an attempt is made to bring an old book up to date, many statements remain which subsequent investigations have proved to be wrong or worthless from a practical point of view. Instances of this are frequent, and many chapters would stand more careful revision or rewriting.

The illustrations are well chosen, and on the whole good, especially those of crystalline poisons, but exception must be taken to a few, such as that of human milk, which conveys nothing to the reader.

A Text-Book of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. By Arthur R. Cushny, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. Sixth Edition. Pp. 692. With 70 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1915. Price 15s. net.

Successive editions of this already well-known book serve to strengthen its position as a very reliable guide to the study of pharmacology and practice of therapeutics. Each substance described