REVIEWS.

The Prevention of Infectious Diseases. By John C. M’Vail, M.D. London: Macmillan & Co. 1907.

It would be a simple truism to say that anything from the careful and accurate pen of Dr. M’Vail is sure to be well worthy of perusal, and the present volume is no exception.

With the exception of a minimal revision for publication, the book consists essentially of the Lane lectures delivered by Dr. M’Vail in 1906 at the Cooper Medical College, San Francisco.

As the author points out in the preface, there is no attempt at originality, but the examples of methods of control of most of the diseases are nearly all from his own experience. This is precisely where the chief value of the book consists. Every page bears convincing evidence of Dr. M’Vail’s intimate knowledge of this most important part of preventive medicine, and if the actual matter is not original, one forgets this on account of the fascination of the pages themselves.

To those who are already more or less familiar with many of the facts relating to infectious disease with reference to Glasgow and the counties of Stirling and Dumbarton, the revelations are not so striking as they must have appeared to his American audience. At the same time, some of the pictures of closes in High Street only forty years ago are startling enough, and, with the additional views shown at the actual lectures, must have been intensely interesting to our cousins across the sea.

The value of the book to the reader is much enhanced by the admirable selection of maps, plans, and views judiciously introduced throughout.

Altogether, Dr. M’Vail is to be heartily congratulated upon the reproduction in book form of the Lane lectures for 1906.

The Vermiform Appendix and its Diseases. By Duncan Macartney, M.A., M.D. Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons. 1908.

This small volume of one hundred and odd pages is founded on notes of the author’s lectures to students in the Western
Infirmary, Glasgow. The notes were extended as a help to a junior student of surgery, in whom the author is interested, and as they seemed helpful to him in the earlier stages of his curriculum, it is thought by the author that they may be of service to others.

Beginning with a brief historical sketch, the author passes to the anatomy and physiology of the appendix. The description of the anatomy of the organ would be helped much by the introduction of illustrations; the physiology is largely what we have learned from Macewen in his Huxley lecture, and his views are freely quoted.

After considering the pathology and bacteriology, the author gives an account of acute appendicitis, following which is a chapter on differential diagnosis, and another on chronic appendicitis. In the chapter on treatment the author’s views on operation are expressed as follows:—“... the surgeon who operates whenever appendicitis is clearly evidenced will have the best results for his patients and the most satisfaction for himself” (p. 74). This we consider sound practice. His views on the administration of opium are also sound. He recommends morphia to relieve pain, “even at the expense of running foul of that fetish, ‘masking the symptoms.’”

Details are given of operative measures, and the book closes with remarks on post-operative treatment.

This is not a pretentious manual; but, small and unassuming as it is, it contains a great deal of commonsense. It is written by one who has had ample opportunities of observing and treating the disease, and it will be found useful by those who have not the opportunity of consulting a larger work.

Modern Surgery, General and Operative. By John Chalmers Da Costa, M.D. Fifth Edition, thoroughly Revised and Enlarged. With 872 Illustrations, some of them in Colours. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1907.

On the back of the title-page information is given as to the repeated issues and editions of this well-known work. Published originally in 1894, it has appeared, between reprints and new editions, sixteen times. It is thus well known to the profession, and it would seem to have attained a wide popularity, which we must confess is fully deserved.

While the volume is of a handsome appearance as regards
binding, type, and illustrations, its leading feature is that the matter, while good, is presented in a most readable style. It is a work which we can recommend to students as one which they will find of use both before and after graduation.

Anatomy of the Brain and Spinal Cord, with Special Reference to Mechanism and Function, for Students and Practitioners. By Harris E. Santee, M.D., Ph.D. Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. With 128 Illustrations, 33 of which are Printed in Colours. London: Sidney Appleton. 1908.

Changes of great importance have taken place within quite recent years in the opinions held by experts on certain points belonging to the subject of localisation and conducting paths in the central nervous system, and it is extremely desirable that new editions of text-books should appear at sufficiently short intervals of time to enable practitioners and students to keep their knowledge up to date. A work of the kind now before us, which aims at associating mechanism and function with structure, is perhaps particularly appropriate in connection with the nervous system, and is likely to find favour with those for whom it is written. Professor Santee rightly refers to the importance of actual dissection of the brain by the student, each part being exposed and sketched as it is seen by the unaided eye, and afterwards examined with the microscope. The subject-matter is arranged with a view to the convenience of the dissector, and is illustrated by numerous useful figures. We congratulate the author on this new edition.

Clinical Treatises on the Symptomatology and Diagnosis of Disorders of Respiration and Circulation. By Professor Edmund von Neusser, M.D. Authorised English Translation by Andrew MacFarlane, M.D. Part I: Dyspnœa and Cyanosis. New York: E. B. Treat & Co. 1907.

In an era when laboratory handbooks represent to such a large extent the new work that is being done in clinical medicine, it is a refreshing change to the physician to meet with a treatise, or essay, or lecture devoted to a few important symptoms. This kind of thing has been done in the past,
and might be revived with advantage. In any case, we welcome the present volume by Professor Neusser in its English form.

Part I treats of dyspnœa and cyanosis in disorders of the respiration, and is introduced by a chapter on the conditions which give rise to dyspnœa. Part II treats of dyspnœa and cyanosis in disorders of the circulation, and in diseases of the digestive system, in infectious and other general diseases, in many kinds of poisoning, and in a considerable variety of other diseases. The last chapter, a short one, is on the therapy of dyspnœa. There is no index, but the table of contents is fairly full.

Trypanosomes and Trypanosomiases. By A. Laveran and F. Mesnil. Translated and much enlarged by David Nabarro, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond. With Coloured Plate and 81 Figures in the Text. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1907.

When this work appeared in the original French nearly four years ago, it contained practically all that was known on the subject at the time, but since then much study has been devoted to trypanosomes and the diseases they induce in man and the lower animals. This fact finds an easy explanation in the discovery made in 1903 that sleeping sickness is a phase of a human trypanosomiasis.

In bringing the work up to date, Dr. Nabarro had to carry out a serious task, for the additions which he found it desirable to make increased the size of the work by more than a half; but there can be no question as to the incalculable benefit he has conferred upon his readers. The additions are indicated by square brackets, and among them are those included in the following list, which we quote from the preface to the English edition:—“The spirochetes; the Leishman-Donovan body; several new trypanosomes of small mammals, birds, batrachians, and fishes; recent observations on the occurrence of flagellates in tsetse-flies, mosquitoes, leeches, &c., and the possible relation of these parasites to the sexual forms of the trypanosomes of vertebrates; the recent observations upon the prevalence of human and animal trypanosomiases in various parts of Africa and in Asia; many facts in connection with human trypanosomiasis; and the microscopic changes found in the central nervous system in sleeping sickness and in dourine.” Dr. Nabarro has also No. 1.
written a new chapter on the treatment of the trypanosomiases.

Within the limits of a short review one can do but scant justice to this very important volume. The reader opens it at random, and is soon attracted by an interesting passage, and before he knows he may be absorbed in the subject. We may mention that the historical aspect of the question is kept well in view, while the chapter on treatment is one that no earnest worker at the subject can afford to overlook.

The book is an admirable treatise on trypanosomiasis, a storehouse of information, written in a most interesting way, and in a literary style which makes it very easy to read. It is an excellent tribute to the special knowledge of the authors, the ability and diligence of the translator and editor, and the enterprise of the publishers.

The Experimental Prophylaxis of Syphilis. By Dr. Paul Maisonneuve. Containing Results of Experiments on the Subject carried out at the Pasteur Institute by Professors Metchnikoff and Roux. Translated, and with an Introduction, by Fernand L. de Verteuil, M.B.Ed., Surgeon R.N. Bristol: John Wright & Co. 1908.

This small book of little over ninety pages is a translation of Dr. Maisonneuve's thesis. The subject is considered in a systematic manner, and the various chapters deal with contagion, generalisation of the virus, action of physical and chemical agents on the virus, prophylaxis by chemical agents, and practical application.

After showing that the lesions of primary, secondary, and tertiary syphilis contain an infectious virus, the author declares that infection takes place through a solution of continuity in skin or mucous membrane, and describes how experiments prove that the disease is due to a dermal inoculation.

This last point suggests a local therapeusis in the early stages. Experiments on animals show that the occurrence of syphilis will be prevented if the seat of infection be treated with calomel before generalisation has occurred. The calomel is used in the form of ointment containing 33 per cent of the drug, with lanolin as a base.

So convinced was Dr. Maisonneuve by the results in animals, that he submitted to inoculation with syphilitic
virus, the seat of inoculation being subsequently treated with the calomel ointment, and the result justified his faith.

The data, so far as man is concerned, are slender; but the reader can see from this volume how workers are engaged attenuating the virus by passing it through successive animals, and there is no reason why a protective vaccine may not in the near future be discovered. Meanwhile, accoucheurs and nurses may well use, as a protective lubricant, the formula given above.

The Under-Secretary of State for War in France has ordered the issue to all soldiers of boxes containing 5 grammes of calomel ointment to be employed as a prophylactic, and it is hoped that sufficient material may shortly be obtained on which to found statistics on the value of the measure. Special notes are to be made of the cases occurring in soldiers who have carried out this prophylactic treatment.

This book is intensely interesting, and it has been translated by Surgeon de Verteuil in a fashion that calls for remark. It abounds in facts which should be known to every member of the profession.

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Rough Notes on Remedies. By Wm. Murray, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond. Sixth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1908.

This excellent little volume thoroughly deserves the success it has already obtained, and we gladly recommend it to all our readers. This new edition includes a paper on "The Therapeutics of Indigestion," which was communicated last year to the Royal Society of Medicine.

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A Manual of Diseases of the Nose, Throat, and Ear. By E. B. Gleason, M.D., LL.D. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1907.

This book, which we have read carefully, and with much pleasure, may be recommended as a sound and safe guide in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nose, throat, and ears. One of the few points to which exception might be taken is the recommendation of the old and rightly discarded method of draining the antrum of Highmore by the extraction of the second molar tooth, followed by the tapping of the antrum through the tooth-socket by the insertion of a trocar
and canula. This is an unnecessarily severe method in acute cases, and a wholly useless method in the successful treatment of chronic cases.

The book is well written, is free from padding, and is profusely illustrated. Further, it is perhaps the most satisfactory of the many transatlantic text-books dealing with these subjects which has come under our notice within recent years.

Diagnostics of the Diseases of Children. By Le Grand Kerr, M.D. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1907.

At first sight one is rather doubtful if there is sufficient scope in this subject to fill a volume which runs to some five hundred pages. The author, however, in the pages before us, makes a very good case, and carries the reader's interest throughout. There is, of course, as is necessary, a certain amount of space devoted to etiology and pathology, but by far the larger portion of the book is given up to the discussion of the symptoms and differential diagnosis of disease as it affects the various systems.

The book opens with several introductory chapters on the method of approaching the child, on obtaining the mother's story, on the valuable information obtained by inspection of the child as it lies in its mother's lap, and on the routine and systematic physical examination of the patient.

Thereafter comes the discussion of the various signs and symptoms met with in disease of the different regions, and this portion of the book is undoubtedly very good, and contains much useful information. We might mention, however, that the section on diseases of the blood is rather short, the different conditions not being considered in sufficiently great detail.

There are numerous illustrations, which help materially in the elucidation of the text.

The Treatment of the Diseases of Children. By Charles Gilmore Kerley, M.D. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1907.

A book on this subject has been for a long time a great want in pediatrics, and we are pleased that the breach has at last been filled, and that, too, in such an exemplary fashion.
Text-books on general medicine, when dealing with the question of treatment, usually give the reader nothing more than a mere tabular review of the many remedies commonly employed. In this volume, however, the subject is discussed in great detail. Not only are various appliances and their modes of application minutely described, but also the indications for the various remedial measures are clearly set forth. One is astonished, however, to find, in a book so thoroughly up to date, no mention made of the treatment of post-diphtheritic paralysis by antitoxin as has been carried out for some time now by Comby in Paris. Nevertheless, one can only speak in praise of the whole production, and augur for it a great future. Numerous illustrative cases are quoted, and thereby add greatly to the comprehension of the text.

Practical Fever Nursing. By Edward G. Register, M.D. London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1907.

The higher education of the nurse in all departments of her work is a sign of the times, and Professor Register, in this volume, seeks to supplement the ordinary text-books by a work solely devoted to the treatment of fever cases. The endeavour is a laudable one, and we are at one with the author when, in his prologue, he insists that a nurse should know something of the diseases she will be called upon to treat.

It is a matter of regret, then, that so many errors of omission and inappropriate information appear in the work, that it can hardly be recommended to the average nurse as a safe text-book. The language is not so simple and clear as the author indicates in the preface, or as his readers require, and some of the illustrations do not illustrate the text. As examples of these faults we may cite the omission to detail the preparations necessary for the use of the thermometer in the rectum, and the treatment of this instrument after use in that region. It is surely an anachronism to find the use of a sheet, moistened with an antiseptic, advised as a precaution against infection; and it is a pity that the illustrations of pulse-taking and of hypodermic injection are useless pictures which convey no information on the subjects indicated.

Then, too, we should hesitate to tell a nurse, as is stated on p. 32, a propos of the dosage of arsenic as a twenty-fourth to a twelfth of a grain, "to get the physiologic and therapeutic
effect of the drug the dose can be increased to a much larger amount."

These extracts are typical of the book, and so, perhaps, enough has been said to indicate that, in our opinion, the objects for which it was originated have not been safely or satisfactorily attained.

Hay Fever, Hay Asthma: Its Causes, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By William Lloyd, F.R.C.S. London: Henry J. Glaisher. 1907.

This interesting little handbook is based on the practical experience of the author. He reviews the various theories regarding the exciting cause of hay fever, its predisposing causes, the symptoms and the treatment, and appends a list of cases.

The author does not claim that it is an exhaustive treatise. Nevertheless, it is well written, and is an excellent review of the subject, and we have read it with pleasure.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. XXIV. Edited by Richard H. Harte, M.D. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan. 1906.

This volume is concerned with the transactions of the Association at its meeting in 1906. A large proportion of the papers deal with abdominal surgery; but there is also a fair number on intracranial lesions. Tetanus, pulsating exophthalmos, and ectopia vesicae are also considered.

These Transactions always contain valuable material, and this volume is no exception.

The Prophylaxis and Treatment of Internal Diseases. By F. Forchheimer, M.D. London: Sidney Appleton. 1906.

This book, which its preface tells us, "embodies the results of thirty years' experience in hospital and private practice," deals rather with the use of drugs than with their therapeutic action. It is, therefore, of the nature of a dictionary of treatment, in which are described the various
recognised methods of treatment for each individual disease. The author's attitude to his subject is explained in the introduction. He says, "The treatment of internal diseases is an art, and, like all arts, it is influenced by science, but, under all circumstances, it is an art practised by one human being upon another. This admitted, it follows that therapy can never be an exact science, for, aside from its being an art, the two human factors, the patient and the physician, will never be reduced to mathematical quantities. . . . The fact is often lost sight of, that not the worker in the laboratory but the clinician is the supreme judge in therapeutic matters. The application of the drug is in the hands of the physician, the modus operandi in those of the theorist: in other words, therapy is an art. As in all applied art, however, the best results are obtained by co-operation of the theorist and the practitioner." And this book embodies the author's clinical experience as regards the treatment of disease by drugs and other means. It is, therefore, written from the clinician's standpoint rather than from that of the therapeutist. From this point of view it is in every way satisfactory; but we do find that it adds much to what is contained in other books on treatment, unless it be that it is more recent, and, therefore, quite up to date. One special word of praise we must give to the admirable instruction regarding the food to be given in the various diseases. This is set down in detail, and with due regard to the digestibility and caloric value of the various articles of diet. The tables in the appendix, dealing with the composition of the various food materials in terms of proteid, fat, and carbohydrate, are most useful. These tables also contain the fuel value of each article of diet.

The book is well printed and well bound, and we have confidence in recommending it to our readers.

A Course of Lectures to Midwives and Maternity Nurses. By W. F. Fothergill, M.A., B.Sc., M.D. With 67 Illustrations in the Text. Edinburgh and London: William Green & Sons. 1907.

This book is written in the form of lectures, and is designed specially for midwives and maternity nurses who are preparing for the examination of the Central Midwives Board of England. As Dr. Fothergill is one of the examiners to the Board, he knows what is required of the nurses coming before
the Board. He has not attempted to give too much, a failing in many books intended for midwives. The information contained in the book is clearly and carefully put, so that any woman of ordinary intelligence should be able to grasp it.

In his opening lecture, on the chief duties of midwives, he explains the importance of cleanliness and asepsis, and he advises nurses to take hot baths very frequently, and, when possible, an extra one before going to a case. Undoubtedly this is good advice, but we are afraid there are few midwives who can follow it out. We think he should have laid more stress on the importance of thoroughly washing and scrubbing the hands and fore-arms, especially the finger nails, with soap and hot water, and then soaking them for some minutes in an antiseptic solution. To merely speak of washing the hands with soap and water, and then in an antiseptic solution, is not sufficient.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the anatomy of the pelvis and genital organs, pregnancy, the mechanism and management of normal labours, and the care of the mother and child in the puerperium. The second part deals with various forms of abnormal labour, including abortion, and also complications of pregnancy and the puerperium, and abnormalities of the child.

In the treatment of post-partum haemorrhage he strongly advises compression of the aorta and raising the foot of the bed. He says, "No woman can die of bleeding from the uterus which occurs while the abdominal aorta is compressed sufficiently to destroy pulsation, the pelvis being at the same time raised a foot or more above the level of the head." That may be true, but we question the ability of any ordinary midwife to compress the aorta sufficiently to stop pulsation.

The book is well illustrated, and midwives will find it a most useful guide. There is an appendix and extracts from the rules framed by the Central Midwives Board.

Manual of Midwifery. By W. E. Fothergill, M.A., B.Sc., M.D. With Double-Coloured Plate and 103 Illustrations in the Text. Fourth Edition. Edinburgh and London: William Green & Sons. 1907.

The fact that this Manual of Midwifery has reached its fourth edition in a few years shows that it is a book of considerable merit. The author has thoroughly revised the
whole text, several sections have been rewritten, and a number of new illustrations have been added. This edition has been brought well up to date.

Some sections of the book are extremely well written, but there are some parts, especially those dealing with treatment and operations, which are weak. It is quite evident that the author has not had a very wide practical experience in midwifery.

The teaching throughout is essentially that of the Edinburgh school, and the book will therefore be of the greatest use to the Edinburgh students, but students of other schools will also find it a very useful guide. We have confidence in recommending it to students.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum: with Special Reference to its Causation and Prevention. By SYDNEY STEPHENSON. London: George Pulman & Sons, Limited. 1907.

This is an important addition to British ophthalmic literature, and the work must rank as an authoritative treatise on a subject of great practical importance. The information brought together in this book has been derived from all parts of the world, and the statistics which the author gives cannot fail to be of great value.

A large part of the volume is devoted to a discussion of the etiology of the malady. The questions as to the manner and the nature of the infection are fully considered. As was to be expected, the majority of cases have been proved to be due to the gonococcus. Other parasites, such as pneumococcus, the pneumobacillus, the bacillus coli, &c., have also been found to give rise to inflammatory attacks which cannot be differentiated, so far as the naked-eye appearances are concerned, from that due to the specific organism.

From a practical point of view the chapters on prevention and on treatment leave little to be desired. As was to be expected from the editor of the English edition of Darrier, the author is strongly in favour of the use of the organic preparations of silver.

In support of this he quotes many authors who may be taken to be to some extent also authorities. To our mind, however, it has been conclusively proved that these preparations have not the bactericidal power of silver nitrate. Indeed, some of them seem to be in this respect practically inert.
Silver nitrate is dangerous, for it is apt to kill the protecting epithelium. We are aware that some of the best results have been obtained by efficient irrigation with sterile water. A modern surgeon, when he finds septic matter in the abdomen, does not pour in chemicals, but simply proceeds to wash it out thoroughly. Perhaps before long the ophthalmic surgeon will follow a similar course.

We are not surprised that Mr. Stephenson’s book has obtained the Middlemore Prize for 1907; it is in every respect excellent.

The Care of the Body. By Francis Cavanagh, M.D. London: Methuen & Co.

In one of his contributions to the Adventurer Dr. Samuel Johnson said, “Of the innumerable books and pamphlets that have overflowed the nation scarce one has made any addition to real knowledge, or contained more than a transposition of common sentiment and a repetition of common phrases.” The doughty lexicographer was a reviewer, and therefore was likely to know what he was writing about; and if he had got the benefit of a medical training, and been still living, he might have been induced to declare, “We already know sufficient about the care of the body, how it should be reared, clothed, and fed, and how physicians should treat their patients, and vice versa.”

The author of a medical book designed for lay reading is bound to travel a well-beaten road, confirming, it may be, the finger-posts and stone-marks laid down by previous workers, but presenting some facts and features of life, unique in his own eyes, and worthy to be chronicled and preserved. Every book gets some readers, and if the author has stamped his pages with his own mint, and pressed home his ideas of things, he will secure an audience ready to appreciate an honest, earnest effort to perpetuate and increase popular scientific instruction.

In the course of seventeen chapters Dr. Cavanagh discourses on the well-worn themes of sleep, bathing, exercise, athletics, clothing, the skin, hair, teeth, eyes, nose, ears, habits and positions of the body, and the functions and proper relation of the physician. Physicians, he argues, should be paid for keeping individuals well, just as medical officers of health are paid for their services in working for collective health.

Our author notices, not without epigram and humour,
about five hundred topics, some of them not alluded to in other popular medical books. The reader will also meet with a sentence such as this—"Some of the most vigorous men I have met have never slept with their bedroom window open." This is a concession to fact, and we recollect that the late Dr. Inman, of Liverpool, said something similar; but as the reader goes on he will perceive from the context that Dr. Cavanagh is after all a mild medical heretic—he wishes sleepers to be neither chilled nor asphyxiated.

We understand that this volume is the first of a series of popular medical manuals which Dr. Saleeby is editing for the Messrs. Methuen. A book like this should prove useful among the middle and upper classes, whose guineas, through deficiency of physiological knowledge, are as ready to fall into the hands of boasting quacks as the humble half-crowns of the working classes.

The tastefulness of the publisher, printer, and binder has seconded the diligence and sprightly good sense of the author.

Diseases of the Lungs: A Practical Presentation of the Subject, for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By Robert Babcock, A.M., M.D. London: Sidney Appleton. 1907.

We have to cordially congratulate the author on the production of a volume which in every sense of the word is interesting and informative. His intention to make the work a practical presentation of the subject we consider has been accomplished with a very large measure of success. Indeed, the subject is treated in a practical manner par excellence, and the individuality of the author is seen in everything that is touched in the book. The volume is a bulky one, comprising 770 pages, but it cannot be said to be in the least degree diffuse, and the interest is maintained to the last chapter. Indeed, it would be well if all authors of medical publications took Dr. Babcock as a model in this respect, as there would be less desultory and more systematic reading of medical subjects.

The work is divided into three sections—I, Diseases of the Bronchi; II, Diseases of the Lungs; and III, Diseases of the Pleura. The first section includes bronchitis (acute, chronic, and plastic), with bronchiectasis, bronchial asthma, tracheal and bronchial stenosis, &c. The second section includes diseases of the parenchyma of the lungs, and also conditions
such as atelectasis and morbid growths. The third section includes diseases of the pleura, together with hydrothorax, hæmothorax, and pneumothorax.

In dealing with the prognosis of pneumonia, so far as the bearing of a marked leucocytosis on it is concerned, the author is careful to observe that the degree of leucocytosis does not give much assistance in absolutely gauging it, although, on the whole, a pronounced leucocytosis is usually regarded as of favourable prognosis. He points out that both an intense infection and a vigorous reaction are necessary to the production of a marked leucocytosis. In spite of a very marked increase in the number of white cells, a patient may yet die from the intensity of the infection, and conversely an absence of leucocytosis may be due to the mildness of the attack, and the prognosis may be favourable.

The significance of leucocytosis in the prognosis of pneumonia is therefore secondary, and reliance must be placed on general symptoms, and particularly on the condition of the myocardium, in estimating the prognosis in any case. The pathology of the various conditions is treated in a very careful manner.

There are 12 coloured plates and 104 text-illustrations, all of which attain a high standard of excellence. The work is highly readable, and this quality does not detract in the slightest from its being full of interesting practical points both for the student and for the general practitioner.

Gall-stones and Diseases of the Bile-Ducts. By J. Bland-Sutton, F.R.C.S. With 47 Illustrations. London: James Nisbet & Co. 1907.

In this little book of some 230 pages the author reproduces a series of lectures delivered at the Middlesex Hospital. He thinks that while the subject of cholelithiasis is inadequately considered in the text-books, the English monographs are too bulky to be useful to students; the present volume is intended to strike the mean.

There is in the book much that is good; but we think that the average student will find it somewhat discursive. He, or anyone else who consults chapter xii, entitled “Differential Diagnosis of Cholelithiasis,” will come away with the impression that there are many conditions very like one another so far as symptoms go; that there will be considerable
difficulty in the way of coming to a correct conclusion in a case; and that he has not received very much help in the matter.

There are numerous references to literature; and these are given at the end of each chapter. The illustrations are quite up to the level of what we find in other monographs on the subject.

There are evidences of haste in the composition—e.g., "The continuous flow of the pancreatic secretion erodes the surface of the stone like water will channel even granite" (p. 138).

This is a work which should prove of use to practitioners as well as students. Throughout the volume the author furnishes short accounts of cases illustrating the difficult parts of the subject. This is, apart from the actual handling of cases, perhaps the best way to learn about disease. There seems to us to be, however, a want of definiteness in the text, which may disappoint those who are seeking for help in the form of hard and fast pronouncements on difficult subjects.

On Treatment. By Harry Campbell, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1907.

While we write this notice there are on the table an old volume entitled The Poor Man's Physician, by Petrus Hyspanus, and Dr. Harry Campbell's recent book. The difference between the two is like that between black and white—between nocturnal darkness and clear noonday. Lord Bacon's oft-quoted remark about medicine "advancing only in a circle" is not true, and was never more inapplicable than at the present time. Old books in a medical library may amuse their owner, but they will seldom profitably instruct him. Let a doctor read a chapter of Dr. Campbell's volume, and he will either acquire a new thought or be reminded of a truth that ought to be preserved from the wreck of the old medical writings.

Those who open the pages of Treatment expecting every disease to be labelled and assorted with a prescription will be disappointed. The book is a chatty summary of the principles of medicine, with a slight bias to empiricism, which renders the perusal more piquant and absorbing.

In a work of this kind there is a tendency to repetition, but this is never annoying. Thirty-seven chapters constitute the 420 pages, and in them are to be found shrewd remarks on the
Reviews.

The Essential Similarity of Innocent and Malignant Tumours: A Study of Tumour-growth. By Charles W. Cathcart, M.B., F.R.C.S. With 86 Illustrations, for the most part Photographic Reproductions from Specimens. Bristol: John Wright & Co.; London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Limited. 1907.

It was while engaged as conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, some ten years ago, in preparing a catalogue of specimens in the museum, that the author's attention was directed to a difficulty in classifying tumours. The difficulty consisted in separating innocent from malignant new-growths. The author found that after arranging tumour-specimens in groups corresponding to organs or tissues, it was easy to separate typically malignant from typically innocent growths. A large number, however, there were which did not belong properly to either sub-group, but which from their characters had to be looked on as intermediate forms. From a study of specimens of tumours occurring in the bones it was seen that there were gradations between the extremes of innocency and malignancy. "In other words, the two classes of tumour are not distinct, but differ only in degree."

The subject is considered under three headings—(1) Gradation in character from innocent to malignant; (2) Transformation, which may sometimes be observed in the same tumour; (3) Combination of characters.

1. This aspect is illustrated by specimens, from different individuals, of cartilaginous, fibro-osseous, and medullary tumours. Ten cases of chondroma are given, ranging from
Reviews.

simple to malignant. In the intermediate forms there were such characters as rapid growth, local recurrence, and slow growth becoming rapid, with sapping of strength. The fibro-osseous series (16 cases) is arranged in the same way. Beginning with osseous tumours which showed no malignancy, the series terminates with cases of periosteal sarcoma. Similarly, 14 cases of medullary tumour are given, showing gradation into malignancy. The accounts of these cases are followed by remarks, in which the writer cites authorities in support of the view of gradation in malignancy. The citations, unlike the cases to which the author has confined himself, deal with tumours in many different regions—mamma, testicle, bladder, &c.

2. Under this heading are placed instances of transformation of innocent into malignant tumours, and of co-existence of malignant with simple growths. Examples are given in cases of moles, warts, sebaceous cysts, &c.

3. In this class are cases in which innocent tumours have given rise to secondary deposits, either of same or of malignant nature. As might have been expected, the examples are chiefly ovarian cystomas; but cases of thyroid metastases are also quoted.

The author recommends that while the main groups of tumours may be framed on a structural basis, subdivisions should be based on the clinical characters, i.e., innocent, malignant, and intermediate. Keeping this in view, the surgeon will incline to early operation even in tumours which may appear to be innocent.

This is a most interesting and suggestive essay, and we congratulate Mr. Cathcart on the way he has set forth his facts. The volume is well worth reading.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Intussusception. By CHARLES P. B. CLUBBE. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland. 1907.

In this slim volume Mr. Clubbe gives us an account of intussusception, based entirely on his own experience of 144 cases during the last thirteen years. There are chapters on the etiology, varieties, symptoms, examination of patients, treatment, and after-treatment. It is easy to see, on reading the text, that it is written by a practical man.

The condition is one which necessarily comes under the
notice first of general practitioners; and by them valuable time is often lost before surgical advice is sought. A consideration of Mr. Clubbe's essay will do much to dispel doubts in the diagnosis of these cases. He modestly recommends it to young practitioners; we feel sure that no one can read the volume without profit.

Hygiene and Public Health. By Louis C. Parkes, M.D., D.P.H., and Henry R. Kenwood, M.B., D.P.H. London: H. K. Lewis. 1907.

This is the third edition under the joint editorship of what is the development of the manual of the first-named author. Few changes, relatively speaking, have been introduced, the main, perhaps, being that the size of the page has been somewhat enlarged to prevent increase in the bulk of the book, which is still of a handy size.

New matter has been introduced here and there, however, and appropriate abbreviations made in other parts of the text of the former edition, mostly with advantage to the reader. We should like to sound a note of warning to the authors not to attempt to accomplish too much in one volume. While, undoubtedly, it is possible in fifty pages of small print to concentrate no small amount of information on sanitary law and administration, it cannot be pretended that a sufficient all-round conception can in that space be given. Many improvements have been made in the book since we formerly reviewed it, and we think it now to be one of the best books for students desiring to proceed towards a qualification in sanitary science or public health.

A few trifling errors have not been noticed in reading proofs. For example, on p. 207 we find \( \text{Co}_2 \) for \( \text{CO}_2 \), and on p. 343 "Friebank" for Freibank. We heartily commend the book.

Lessons in Disinfection and Sterilisation. By F. W. Andrewes, M.A., M.D. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1907.

In the short time that has elapsed since the first appearance of this most useful book, there have been but few advances in that section of bacteriology which deals with practical disinfection. The standardisation of antiseptics, introduced by
Rideal and Walker, is new, and has brought forth criticisms both of phenol as a standard and of the methods of testing. This subject is included in the new edition, and the author, after describing various methods, takes up the sensible position that a standard of efficiency is a good thing, though the methods at present employed may not be quite satisfactory.

The surgical section is somewhat meagre, particularly in the matter of efficiency of dressings, the evaporation of moisture from them, and the other details which appeal to the surgeon and the surgical nurse. The book still maintains its characteristic elementary nature, and is eminently fitted to carry the student by easy stages to a clear idea of the subject. Technical words and processes are explained as they occur in the text; and the practical exercises are well devised, and so simple that they are readily understood.

Of convenient size, well printed, and furnished with a fairly complete index, this new edition is worthy of recommendation to all whose work includes disinfection and sterilisation.

Physical Diagnosis. By Egbert le Fevre, M.D. Second Edition. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

"This new edition has been thoroughly revised, some of the sections have been entirely rewritten, the series of illustrations has been enriched, and attention has been called to recent modifications in methods of examination." These words from the preface of the book give a fair description of the new edition. And the work as we now have it before us is one of the most satisfactory books on the physical examination of the thoracic and abdominal organs that we have read for some time. Special attention is paid to the physics of physical signs, and an attempt is made to refer any variation from the normal signs to the morbid lesions that may be causing them. One cannot always agree with Dr. le Fevre in his explanation of the production of the respiratory murmur and its variations and other such like matters, but at the same time one recognises that his point of view is always well considered, and most often well worthy of consideration.

The text is amply supplied with illustrations, and these add greatly to the elucidation of the subject matter.

We have pleasure in recommending this book to our readers.