to discover tubercle bacilli, but he never found any. The reviewer, too, has never found any tubercle bacilli in phlyctenular conjunctivitis, and in his recent investigations he found no fewer than 63 per cent. of the cases giving "bacteria negative" findings. In his cases the microorganisms seen were generally saprophytic and non-pathogenic. This result is all the more remarkable in view of the distinctly purulent character of the discharge in some of the cases examined. These purulent-looking cases showed such clinical symptoms as to justify the diagnosis of severe Koch-Weeks conjunctivitis or mild purulent conjunctivitis. The cause, then, of phlyctenulae must still be regarded as a moot point. One thing, however, is certain—phlyctenulae are not the direct result of the action of the tubercle bacillus, but according to recent investigations there is strong evidence in support of the theory that phlyctenulae are the indirect result, i.e. of some form of toxin produced by the tubercle bacillus, which toxin, coming in contact with a suitable soil, sets up a local irritation in the shape of circumscribed patches of conjunctivitis, clinically known as phlyctenules.

As regards treatment, our bacteriological knowledge has not helped us much. So far the most efficacious remedy at the surgeon's disposal is yellow oxide of mercury ointment, gr. viii. to $\frac{3}{4}$, which, although empirical, may be regarded as a specific. A phlyctenular affection per se is not a serious condition, provided its immediate environment be satisfactory. Phlyctenules as a rule undergo a process of ulceration. The conjunctiva, thus denuded of its epithelium, becomes exposed to bacterial invasion, a circumstance which obviously may give rise to serious complications. Local treatment should therefore be begun early, and general tonic treatment should invariably be prescribed in each case with the view not only of relieving the present condition, but of preventing relapses in the future.

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**NEW BOOKS.**

*Recent Methods in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Syphilis.* By **Carl H. Browning, M.D.,** and **Ivy Mackenzie, M.A., B.Sc., Ch.B.** Pp. 303. London: Constable & Co. 1911. Price 8s. 6d. net.

The prominent part which the Glasgow School of Pathology has taken in contributing to recent investigations on the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis arouses special interest in this work. We may at once say that the high expectations which the position of the authors raise will not be disappointed, as their book constitutes, both from the practical and scientific standpoint, the best exposition of the subject which has yet appeared. As the title suggests, the work falls into two parts, which deal on the one hand with the modern methods of
the diagnosis of the disease, and on the other with the methods and results of the salvarsan treatment. In each case the exposition is thorough, and the difficulties which arise are fully discussed with a marked sanity of judgment. In the section dealing with the diagnosis by serum reactions, after correlating these with general serological methods, the authors proceed to a description of the original Wassermann method and of its more recent developments. The precautions to be adopted and the failacies of the technique are treated of in great detail, and in such a way as to form a most efficient guide for the working bacteriologist. The outstanding feature here is the insistence on the substitution of a quantitative measure of the serum reaction for the qualitative estimate obtained by the original Wassermann method. This forms one of the most important original contributions made to the subject by the authors, and one the importance of which is becoming more and more widely recognised. In fact this technique alone furnishes reliable results, and all the shorter methods which have been introduced must be controlled by comparison with those obtained by means of it. This statement has an important bearing on the validity of many of the published data relating to the diagnosis of syphilis.

An important chapter deals with the theory of the syphilis reaction and with the present state of knowledge regarding the chemical nature of the substances concerned. Here the original work of the authors is in evidence, and the fact that the problem is still unsolved does not detract from the importance of the observations given. The first part closes with an enunciation of the results which have been obtained in the diagnosis of the varied manifestations of syphilis.

In the second part the chemical relationships of salvarsan and the experimental basis of treatment by the drug are discussed, and full directions are given for its administration. Many data are given regarding the results which have been obtained, and here, again, the personal experience of the authors bulks largely, and adequate attention is paid to the objections which have been raised to the new treatment and to the dangers which are involved. As is natural, it is impossible to dogmatise as to the permanency of the results in such a chronic disease, but the authors are clearly right in their view that better results are obtained by the use of salvarsan than with any other agent hitherto applied.

In many parts of the book the sidelights which the investigation of the drug have cast on the pathology of syphilis are dealt with, and special interest will be aroused by what is said regarding the infectivity of tertiary lesions, the genesis of which has in the past given rise to such controversy. The authors are to be congratulated upon their book, which is sure to find wide favour, not only with specialists but with those who are engaged in everyday practice.
Syphilis from the Modern Standpoint. By James M'Intosh, M.D., and Paul Fildes, M.B., B.C. Pp. 227. London: Edward Arnold. 1911. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The volume is one of the series of international medical monographs issued under the editorship of Drs. Leonard Hill and Wm. Bulloch. It gives a complete summary of the recent work which has been done on syphilis since the discovery of the spirochaeta pallida. In addition to the purely scientific aspect of the subject of immunity to syphilis, theories of the Wassermann reaction, etc., a considerable part of the book deals with the use of "606" in syphilis and the clinical value of the drug.

The literature on these subjects is now so great that it is quite impossible for the practitioner to keep abreast of the most recent work by reading articles as they appear in journals. He must therefore rely on those who have made these subjects a special study to give him the result of recent work in a condensed form. This the authors of this volume have succeeded admirably in doing. The book is interesting, not too long, and gives sufficient detail of technique, etc., to make it valuable as a reference book. There are also numerous references under each section, from which further details may be obtained if desired. The half-tone block illustrations are all, without exception, good.

A Practical Handbook of Diseases of the Ear. By William Milligan, M.D., and Wyatt Wingrave, M.D. Pp. 596. With 293 Illustrations and 6 Coloured Plates. London: Macmillan & Co. 1911. Price 15s.

In this work we have the results of the co-operation between the practical surgeon and the clinical pathologist. We are, therefore, brought abreast of all the most recent advances in otology. Dr. Milligan gives us the results of his own personal experience, and introduces short clinical notes of interesting cases. The first section, which deals with the diseases of the external ear and meatus, is somewhat too long; the numerous skin diseases described really fall within the domain of the dermatologist rather than that of the otologist.

Although Dr. Wingrave's account of the pathology and bacteriology of the various conditions met with is often extremely interesting, it is too diffuse, and tends to break the interest of the reader who has been closely following the account of the clinical conditions. It would perhaps have been better if the pathology could have been concentrated into special chapters.

Chapter XIX., which deals with the examination of aural discharges, is excellent. The drawings, illustrating the microscopic pathology of various conditions, might well have been replaced by photo-micrographs.
It is interesting to note that the authors apparently believe in the possibility of inflammation of the tympanic membrane itself, apart from affections of the external meatus or of the middle ear cleft. Dr. Milligan is greatly in favour of paracentesis of the membrane in cases of acute suppurrative otitis media, while he joins the majority of other writers in condemning the use of Bier's method in ear work.

Among the most noteworthy sections of the book are those dealing with tubercular disease of the middle ear and the intra-cranial complications of purulent otitis media. The writers advocate operation in practically all cases of otitic meningitis unless the patient is moribund. In cases of cerebellar abscess they favour the double opening, i.e. one in front and another behind the sigmoid sinus, while in dealing with septic thrombosis of the lateral sinus they advocate the ligature of the jugular vein unless the disease in the sinus be extremely localised.

Chapter XXXVI., contributed by Dr. Purves Stewart, deals with diseases of the ear in relation to general medicine. At the end of the work we find an account of diseases of the fauces, pharynx and nose, which extends to 70 pages, and is considerably fuller than that usually met with in text-books on diseases of the ear.

Taken as a whole, the work can be thoroughly recommended to advanced students and practitioners as well as to specialists. It may be hoped, however, that when the second edition comes out the general appearance of the book and the illustrations will have been considerably improved.

Modern Otology. By John F. Barnhill, M.D., and Ernest de W. Wales, Indiana University School of Medicine. Pp. 598. With 314 Original Illustrations. London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1911. Price 14s. net.

This work has been mainly written by Dr. Barnhill, but Dr. Wales has contributed the first three chapters and also some valuable pathological work scattered throughout the book.

It begins with an excellent account of the anatomy of the temporal bone and aural apparatus, but the second section, which deals with the physiology of hearing, is rather disappointing, and the account of the vestibular apparatus is by no means up to date.

The functional examination of the cochlear apparatus is clearly described, and the notation given is that of the International Congress at Buda-Pesth, which ought now to be generally adopted.

In their description of the organismal infections of the middle ear the writers have followed German bacteriologists. A noteworthy feature is the clear exposition of the differential diagnosis of furuncle of the auditory meatus from mastoiditis.

The diseases of the nose and naso-pharynx as they affect the ear
are well dealt with, and the classification of inflammations of the middle ear is simple and accurate.

In the chapters on the intra-cranial complications of suppurative otitis media the symptoms and diagnosis of cerebellar abscess are not sufficiently described, while in the section on non-suppurative conditions many useless operations are given in great detail.

Otosclerosis does not meet with the attention it deserves. There is a good chapter on the subject of deafmutism.

The volume is well printed on good paper and is beautifully illustrated. Although not in colour, the illustrations of pathological conditions of the tympanic membrane are very clear, and the photographs of the temporal bone are of a very high order.

The Deaf Child: A Manual for Teachers and School Doctors. By James Kerr Love, M.D. Pp. 192. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1911. Price 4s. 6d.

Dr. Kerr Love, undoubtedly the greatest authority in this country on the deaf child, has written a book which is intended for teachers of the deaf, school doctors, and those interested in education and sociology rather than for specialists. For this reason, doubtless, the pathology of deafmutism is not discussed. Chapter V. contains an excellent summary of the information collected by the author on his tour through Denmark, Germany, Austria, and the United States. He describes the different methods of classification and teaching, and states the cost per pupil. With regard to the classification of deafmutes, Kerr Love comes to the following conclusions:—(1) The semi-deaf and semi-mute should be taught by the oral method, but separately from the other scholars. (2) The mentally bright deafmutes (other than the semi-deaf and semi-mute cases) should also be taught by the oral method. (3) The mentally dull deafmutes should be taught by the manual method.

The author is also in favour of day schools, and of sending deafmutes to school at the age of three years and of retaining them at school until 18 years of age; during the last four years they should be thoroughly taught a trade in addition to continuing their education. The excellent arrangements made by the London County Council for the education of the deaf are fully described. Scotland is very backward in its arrangements, and the author is very much against the mixed or combined method which obtains in Edinburgh.

The book clearly shows that the oral method was originated in Scotland and not in Germany, although it always goes under the name of the "German" method.

The author is an enthusiast for his subject, and in many places he
is really eloquent with regard to the education and training of the deaf child. He comes to the same conclusion as others who have thought over the problem of the treatment of suppurative otitis media amongst poor children, i.e. that it is necessary to establish school clinics.

Chapter VIII. gives a good account of lip-reading, while in the appendix there are some interesting and valuable letters from former pupils of the oral schools for the deaf in the United States. Many of these are now in responsible positions, and state that they seldom have any difficulty in reading the lips of others or in making themselves understood.

Finally, the book contains a chapter by Dr. Wright Thomson on the condition of the eyes of deafmutes, and a note by Dr. Kerr Love upon stammering and cleft palate.

_Treatment of Neurasthenia by Teaching of Brain Control._ By Dr. Roger Vittoz. Translated by H. B. Brooke. Pp. 117. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1911. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This little book is written mainly for patients, and does not pretend to be "scientific"—it deals, indeed, with the training of the will, a faculty which is obviously enough mainly outside the province of "science." The author goes far enough for practical purposes in recognising that the essence of neurasthenia is "want of brain control," and this it is which his treatment aims at restoring. To this end he details several exercises in thought-concentration, beginning with visualising exercises (as of the symbol of infinity ∞, or the figure 1) and leading on to the methods of securing that healthy mastery of ideation which is essential for the purposes of ordinary living.

An entirely novel view brought forward by the writer is that the movements of the brain corresponding to various psychic processes can be felt through the skull as "vibrations," when the physician’s hand is placed on the patient’s forehead! Our author does not claim that we may read actual thoughts by this procedure, but maintains that we can soon learn to distinguish different mental states (such as depression, excitement, dreaminess, etc.). To put it mildly, we would doubt this.

There are some sensible hints in the book (notably those on insomnia), but as a whole it does not show any definite advance on the numerous works appearing at the present day on the psychic treatment of the psychoneuroses. The apparent vagueness of the terminology may be partly attributable to the translation.
A Manual of Fevers. By Claude Buchanan Ker, M.D.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.), Medical Superintendent of City Hospital, Edinburgh. London: Henry Frowde, Hodder & Stoughton. Pp. 314. 6 Plates, 14 Charts. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This small manual is the work of a specialist who is a master of his subject—one who also has the faculty of communicating to others his knowledge in a well-ordered, clear, and memorable style. The book begins with a short introduction in which infection, immunity, and fever—its nature, stages, and types—are dealt with; then follows a short chapter on the examination of rashes and throats. The various fevers common in this country, including diphtheria, erysipelas, whooping-cough, and mumps, are systematically described, points of difficulty in diagnosis and treatment are carefully discussed, and the treatment described in detailed and practical fashion.

When considering infection after scarlatina the author expresses doubt as to the possibility of disinfecting the desquamating cuticle by inunction; he nevertheless states that skin undesquamated at the end of six weeks can be safely disregarded. It must be presumed that this statement refers to skin which has been disinfected by inunction, because it is known that the poison of scarlatina, unlike that of measles, is long lived, and that infected articles of clothing which have not been treated retain their infectivity even after a year.

This admirable book is primarily intended for students, but it deserves and is suited for a much wider circle of readers.

Collected Papers of the Staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, 1910. Pp. 633. With 291 Illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co. Price 24s. net.

This, the second volume of collected papers by the staff of the Mayo Clinic, fully maintains the high standard set by the first collection which we noticed recently. It contains over fifty contributions to matters of present-day interest in surgery, and bears eloquent testimony to the activity of the staff of St. Mary's Hospital. The papers are arranged regionally, and a glance at the table of contents at once indicates the directions in which surgical investigation is tending and the spheres in which most progress is being made. Fully half the volume deals with the alimentary canal, and the greater part of the other half is devoted to the genito-urinary organs and the ductless glands.

We note with pleasure that there is a prospect of the various papers emanating from St. Mary's being collected and issued annually. In this way much of the best work done by American surgeons will be rendered available for ready reference, and these volumes will become indispensable in any medical library, public or private.
Books on special subjects by specialists are often dull and not always instructive, but a review of a special subject by a general surgeon is often both attractive and instructive. Mr. Kidd has succeeded admirably; his book reads easily and convincingly, and the reader obtains the maximum instruction with the minimum of effort. It has the further merit of giving details of treatment, which should prove especially useful to the general practitioner.