Reviews.

Kala-Azar.—By Rai Bahadur Upendra Nath Brahmacari, M.A., M.D., with a foreword by Major-General W. H. B. Robinson, C.B., K.H.S., I.M.S. Second Edition. Calcutta: Messrs. Butterworth & Co. Price Rs. 7. W. W. congratulate the author on the appearance of a Second Edition of his book on Kala-Azar. The First Edition was rapidly exhausted and we venture to prophesy that the present edition will share the same fate.

This Edition may be described as the most comprehensive work extant on Kala-Azar. Geographical distribution, history, epidemiology, symptomatology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment are all exhaustively dealt with. While giving a faithful account of the researches of others and the opinions of the leading authorities, the subject matter is replete with accounts of the author's own researches. The language is clear, concise, and of a high literary order. The illustrations and plates are particularly well executed and worthy of the high reputation of the publishers.

If one were to single out any part of the book for special praise, one might select the chapters on treatment, specially those which deal with the different preparations of Antimony. The Pharmacology of the various salts of this metal is very fully dealt with, new compounds prepared under the author's directions described, and the lines, along which further advance is likely, indicated.

We can strongly recommend this Edition to medical men throughout the Tropics.

The X-Ray Atlas of the Systemic Arteries of the Body.—By H. C. Orrin, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., (Edin.). London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. Price 12½ net.

The plates which constitute the main feature of this atlas are simply Skiagrams of the arterial system filled with opaque material. Most of the radiographs were taken from a full time foetus. The excellence of the radiographs and the superb manner in which they show the finer branching of the arteries is beyond question. The anastomoses about joints are particularly well shown. The method of indicating the various branches is original and effective. Whether, as the author hopes, it will prove of great value to the student of Anatomy is another matter which time can only decide.

We congratulate the author and the publishers on having produced a novel and interesting...
work which should prove useful not only to the student, but to the Physician and Surgeon.

The Duties of Sisters in Small Hospitals.—By Felice Norton. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Price 4/6 net.

This book is likely to be very helpful to any nurse wishing to take up a Sister’s post after her training. The whole matter is short, concise, and to the point, and fully points out the duties of a Hospital Sister. The chapters on the duties of a Theatre Sister and of a Night Sister are particularly good and useful.

Practical Pharmacology for the Use of Students of Medicine.—By W. E. Dixon, M.A., M.B., F.R.S. Printed at the Cambridge University Press. Price 7/6 net.

This little book contains an account of the experiments which a student can easily perform for himself in class.

The experiments have been chosen as far as possible to illustrate well recognised actions of common drugs in every day use. Before dealing with the actual experiments a brief theoretical account has been given, to impress on the students the significance and the practical bearing of the experiments he performs.

A feature of the book is a table of the doses of various drugs for the commoner animals used in the Laboratory.

The author deplores the fact that owing to legal restrictions, he is unable to include experiments on decerebrate mammals.

On the whole it is an admirably conceived little book and should prove useful to students and others studying the action of drugs.

War against Tropical Diseases.—By Sir Andrew Balfour, C.B., K.C.M.G., Director in Chief, Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London. 220 pp., with 183 plates and illustrations. 12/6 net. 1920.

“Sanitary sermons” are apt to provide very dull reading. Sir Andrew Balfour’s series of seven, however, come into a very different category. They are such delightful reading and so beautifully illustrated that, in the first instance, they should be read and appreciated in the comfort of an armchair. The stories of the susceptible sanitary inspector, of the generous lady friend, who would sit out with bared neck in the late afternoons in order to attract phlebotomi, and of the distinguished Highland regiment at Salonika which contained 52 Private John Macphersons who were all afflicted simultaneously with red hair and the itch, are in the author’s most happy vein. The book is full of “bons mots” — “Phlebotomus papatasii, hairy as Esau”; “Simulium damnosum, evidently the misbegotten progeny of a female Culex and a deformed house fly”; the difficulty experienced by military authorities in distinguishing between sanitation and latrines, which are apt to be regarded as synonymous; the urine funnels in the desert, mistaken by the enemy for listening posts; the sanitary inspector’s work, like a woman’s, never finished, but probably more productive of good results.

At the second reading pencil and notebook are essential. The book is full of the most valuable and suggestive information. Cut bamboo stems as breeding places for anophele larva; the value of Notonecta, the water boatman, as predatory upon mosquito larva; the typical facies of severe ankylostome infection; the red howler monkey as a possible reservoir of yellow fever infection; the value of underground larders in desert campaigns; the open-air-cage fly trap and the roller towel method of using arsenite of soda solution for killing flies; Egypt as an international health filter; the importance, in anti-hookworm campaigns, of attending to the breeding places of larva as well as to the infected patients; the necessity for inspection and control of pharmacies; improvised shower baths and the use of churns in chlorinating water; the proper construction of field service kitchens; are a few of the very many subjects most ably dealt with.

The book consists of seven main chapters. “Some Aspects of Tropical Sanitation” is a compend of the duties and training of a Sanitary Inspector; and urges the value of British N. C. O’s in such appointments. “Tropical Problems in the New World” is the story of an itinerant sanitary possessed of both the sanitary eye and the sanitary nose, through Columbia and the West Indies. “Preventive Inoculation against Typhoid and Cholera” is a popular address to the Research Defence Society. “The Medical Entomology of Salonika” is an entirely admirable lecture, covering exactly the ground which all medical men practising in the tropics should know thoroughly, without being overburdened with detail, and is most clearly written and illustrated. “Sanitary and Insanitary Makeshifs in the Eastern War Areas” is full of fertile ideas and devices. “The Problem of Hygiene in Egypt” is fully dealt with: and the author gives a valuable summary of the present medical and sanitary organisation and an outline of how a Ministry of Health should be organised and run. “The Palm from a Sanitary Standpoint” is an essay full of the most detailed, erudite and curious wealth of information.

“War against Tropical Diseases” is an admirable book and a most valuable contribution to the growing volume of post-war books dealing with tropical medicine. It only remains to add that the binding and the wealth of illustrations are characteristic of the very high standard set by the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, and will render the book treasure-trove to its readers.

Aids to Osteology.—By Philip Turner, B.Sc., M.B., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Price 4/6 net.

As a summary of its subject this book should have no rival of its size. It is
unnecessary to dilate on the utility of the aid series of publications, already so well-known and so widely read by students and others. The present volume embodies all the good points of the series.

Practical Chemistry including Simple Volumetric Analysis and Toxicology.—By P. A. Ellis Richards, F.R.C. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. Price £1-6 net.

An excellent little book specially written for medical and dental students; but, also intended to provide the general student of Chemistry with an introduction to elementary qualitative and quantitative analysis. That it should have already reached a third edition is a sufficient indication of the utility and popularity of this little volume.

Bailliére's Nurses' Complete Medical Dictionary. Second Edition. By Constance M. Douthwaite. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. Price £1-6 net.

This little volume should prove indispensable to every nurse qualified or unqualified. It contains practically every medical term which a nurse is likely to hear on her daily rounds and still it is small enough to be carried in her pocket.

A useful feature of the book is an appendix containing abbreviations of medical terms used in Prescriptions, Degrees, Diplomas, Naval and Military Medical terms, Symptoms and Treatment of Poisoning, and other valuable information.

A Class-Book of Organic Chemistry, Vol. II.—By J. B. Cohen, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.S. London: Macmillan & Co.

This little volume is intended for Medical Students who can devote only a limited time to Organic Chemistry. Theory is combined with practical illustrations. The high reputation of the author is a sufficient guarantee for the subject matter, and we can recommend it to all students who require a short, concise account of the main facts of Organic Chemistry.

Neoplastic Diseases. A Text-book on Tumours. By James Ewing, A.M., M.D., Sc.D. Pages 1,027. Illustrations 479. Published by W. B. Saunders & Co. Philadelphia and London. Price Rs. 37-8.

This volume, which is probably the most complete monograph on the subject in our language, opens with an interesting historical summary from the early Egyptian period to the present day.

The classification, which is simple and reasonable, is based on histological characters. Throughout the book the author lays stress on the fact that tumours of the same histological type are by no means identical when occurring in different parts of the body, but rather that each organ impresses on the neoplasms which arise in it some difference either in their formation or in the clinical symptoms to which they give rise. Thus fibromata though identical in structure run a very different course according to the part of the body in which they happen to arise.

The chapter on the general characters of malignancy is particularly good, and the subject is brought so far up to date as to include the recent work of Pfeiger on spontaneous cancers in rats due to the invasion by the nematode Spiroptera neoplastica, which is believed to be carried by cockroaches.

A full description is given of the results of recent cancer research and on the relationship of malignant disease to Mendelism and genetics. The characters of that difficult class of tumours which arise in lymphoid tissue and which includes lymphoma, leukaemia, lymphocytoma, chloroma and lymphadenoma, are described more clearly than in any other work we know, and the author has produced something like order out of the chaos which generally surrounds this class of tumour.

One of the most valuable parts of the book is the consideration devoted to the clinical side, and to the signs whereby the surgeon may recognise the change from chronic inflammation to early malignancy in such conditions as chronic mastitis.

Statistical evidence on various tumours from the surgical point of view is also freely given, such as their relative frequency in different organs and in different parts of the same organ.

The ovarian and the broad ligament tumours are described very fully and excellent diagrams are given to show the relation of vestigial remains to the neoplasms of this locality.

We note that the writer abandons the theory of the endothelial origin of the common tumours of the salivary glands though this has almost passed into general acceptance.

Melanotic tumours are removed from the sarcomata and are placed in a separate class as "melanomata" and evidence is given to show that they arise from the chromatophores.

The final chapter deals with the teratomata, dermoid and other tumours of embryonic origin, and with malformations.

The book is profusely illustrated, mostly with photomicrographs which are very clear and nearly all new. The diagrams also are used to shew special points of vestigial or embryonic interest.

It is difficult to find anything but praise for the book which is certain to become the standard authority on neoplastic disease.

It is printed and got up in the way we are accustomed to expect from the firm of Messrs. W. B. Saunders and Company.

Diagnosis of Bacteria and Blood Parasites.—By E. P. Minett, M.D., D.P.H., etc. Third Edition. London: Balliere, Tindall and Cox. Price 4/6 net.

An excellent little book containing all the really essential points of practical Bacteriology, this volume should prove of special value to the student and practitioner. The present edition has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. It includes such subjects as demonstration of Negri bodies, filter passers, Rickettsia bodies, etc. No student or practitioner should be without it.
AN OUTLINE OF GENITO-URINARY SURGERY.—By George Gilbert Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S. Published by Messrs. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London.

This is an excellent little volume full of practical and useful information. It meets with all the requirements of a student and will be found to be of great value to the general practitioner, both in his emergency and ordinary routine work. The author is eminently practical, lucid and precise in his conception as regards the symptomatology, pathology and treatment of genito-urinary conditions. The illustrations are such as are seldom met with in ordinary books dealing with genito-urinary affections. We congratulate Dr. Smith on the production of a neat and useful work which we strongly recommend to the medical profession.

THE NEW PHYSIOLOGY IN SURGICAL AND GENERAL PRACTICE.—By A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition, Revised and enlarged. Bristol, 1920. John Wright and Sons, Ltd. Price cloth, 9s. 6d.; paper, 7s. 6d. net.

That this little work is of distinct value to the general practitioner is proved by its having attained to its fourth edition. It brings together a mass of important facts, collected by patient search and by patient co-ordination rendered intelligible and made useful for practice. The next edition, which will soon be called for, will we hope be more thoroughly revised equally in all chapters than this appears to have been. Alderden's work is now not nearly so much admired as it was before the tests of time and experience had been applied to it. Since 1913 McCarrison has published a lot of work on Goitre which finds no place in this book.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL.—A Year-book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index. Bristol, 1920. (Thirty-eight year). John Wright and Sons, Ltd.

This well-known and most useful year-book is up-to-date. In it the busy practitioner will find hints for the treatment of all and sundry complications which may arise; and carefully condensed descriptions of the latest methods of diagnosis, and of treatment. No practitioner should be without it, for no practitioner can afford to do without its ready aid in his practice.

A DIABETIC MANUAL FOR THE MUTUAL USE OF DOCTOR AND PATIENT.—By Elliott P. Jostin, M.D. Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Second Edition, thoroughly revised. Philadelphia and New York, 1919. Lea and Febiger.

This little work contains all that the most intelligent and exacting patient requires to know about his diet, and why restrictions of it are necessary. Full tables of the carbohydrates protein and fat contents with the calorie-values of the usual articles of diet are given, and very careful directions as to the weighing of these. Interspersed are wise sayings which the patient will do well to bear in mind, and to carry out in practice. As might be expected the author prefers the metric system of weights and measures. A very valuable section is that which gives the real carbohydrate content of so-called diabetic preparations—one "Diabetic Flour" had 71.9 per cent! We recommend this work to all who have diabetic patients, and who has none here?

MANUAL OF SURGERY (Rose and Careless) FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.—By Albert Careless, C.B.E., M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. Tenth Edition. Pp. xii 1562. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Price 30s. net.

The tenth edition of this well-known book needs no introduction to the student or the practitioner. The new volume is in every respect a most admirable text-book, up-to-date, comprehensive, and well-illustrated. The author has included a great deal that the war has taught us, particularly in the chapters on compound fractures and infected wounds. The X-ray plates on art paper have been collected together at the end of the book and form a valuable appendix.

The volume is of necessity increased in size and in price. It is a most satisfying product of 21 years of effort, and the war experiences of the author during the five eventful years which have passed since the publication of the last edition are incorporated in the book.

CHEMISTRY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS.—By E. Gabriel Jones. Methuen & Co. Price not stated.

We have read this work with very great pleasure. The author's object has been to produce a handy work for public health students which is mainly a laboratory manual. The practical directions are excellent and give evidence of much experience, and no student following his methods should have any difficulty in obtaining accurate results. We fully agree as to the necessity of thoroughly explaining chemical calculations, as even good students frequently fail to understand them properly. We are glad, too, to see the constant references to original writings and methods, which are so rare in many text-books. We do not think anything is gained by detailing at the head of each experiment a list of apparatus required, since for the most part these are the commonplaces of the laboratory. The author is rigid in his exclusion of all cuts and diagrams, even of special pieces of apparatus such as the Butyro-refractometer and the standard Reichert-Meissl-Polenske apparatus.

A short account might have been included of the general methods of oil analysis, and this would have formed an appropriate introduction to the chapter on butter, as the two subjects are so closely connected.

We have nothing but praise for this book, which every laboratory should possess.

TOXICOLOGY (Catechism Series).—Second Edition. Author not stated. E. & S. Livingstone. Price 1r. 6d.

This, another of the well-known Catechism Series, is very welcome. Within the modest
space of 73 pages the author succeeds in presenting the most important points regarding symptoms, lethal dose, antidotes, post-mortem appearances, etc., of the more common poisons. The accounts are clearly given and well suited to the requirements of students and junior practitioners.

The account of the chemical tests is not so good. In a general work of this kind analytical methods naturally take second place, and it is a matter of the greatest difficulty to give in a few words any clear idea of the tests which are actually used. This makes it all the more necessary to cut out academic information which has no practical application, such as we find under the heading of nitric acid, where it is stated that “mixed with concentrated hydrochloric acid it dissolves gold.” The only test given for ammonia is Nessler’s Test. No doubt this can be applied to viscera after distillation.

It is stated under the heading of poisoning by the alkalies that “the vomited matters are alkaline,” but under the heading of ammonia poisoning no mention is made of the three characteristic signs, viz., (1) strong alkalinity to litmus, (2) characteristic smell, and (3) fumes with hydrochloric acid. Also the statement that perchloride of iron gives a “blue” colour with carbolic acid is not accurate.

Despite a few blemishes of this kind the book contains much useful general information on the subject of poisons and we can recommend it.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.—

By Abraham Levinson, B.S., M.D. 231 pp., 56 illustrations including 5 coloured plates. London, 1919. Henry Kimpton. Price 15s. net.

The author, after having done many hundreds of lumbar punctures, states that, although for children up to 12 years of age a needle 4 c.m. long will certainly penetrate the spinal canal, for adults the needle must be 10 c.m. long to allow for the great depth at which the canal lies in very fat subjects; and that failure to obtain fluid may nearly always be ascribed to faulty technique. The patient should always be in the recumbent posture, with the back arched in order to widen the intravertebral space, and though in children the puncture may be made exactly in the middle line for adults one should thrust the needle in 5 to 10 m.m. to the side, as Quincke, who did the first lumbar puncture for therapeutic purposes in 1891, laid down.

The following rough and ready tests he mentions amongst the more elaborate tests required for a full knowledge of the condition of the cerebro-spinal fluid.—Foam—in normal fluid this is but slight after shaking and disappears in a few minutes. Turbidity—if produced by the addition of sodium hydrate, but not by adding sulphuric acid, indicates tuberculous meningitis, the turbid fluid of suppurative meningitis being unaffected by sulphuric acid, but cleared up by sodium hydrate. Pellicle—this may form very early after the fluid is drawn in suppurative meningitis, but does not appear until several hours have passed in tuberculous meningitis.

As a rule, no more than 10 c.c. of fluid should be withdrawn—2 c.c. should be received in one test-tube, and of this quantity 1 c.c. is used for the permanganate test, and 1 c.c. for smears, cultures, and cytological examination. In a second test-tube 3 to 5 c.c. should be taken, and examined for globulin, and by the Lange and Wassermann tests. A third test-tube receives the rest of the fluid removed. In cases of meningitis, owing to the increase in the quantity of fluid from 15 to even 40 c.c. may be removed, due attention being paid to the pulse while the fluid is flowing.

The author believes that Lange’s gold chloride test is of value not only in detecting various forms of syphilis of the nervous system but also in discovering the type of meningitis.

He does not recommend the French method of cell-counting, because, though it is more convenient for a rough estimation of the number of cells and allows one to study the type of cell present on the same slide, it requires a larger amount of fluid than does the chamber method, and gives less accurate results. He prefers the Fuchs-Rosenthal to the Thoma-Zeiss chamber.

For measuring the pressure of the fluid he has devised a special needle which fits on to a manometer, whose tube is 800 m.m. long, this being the highest pressure obtained of all his estimations. He does not recommend a mercury manometer, for in normal conditions the pressure thus recorded is too small, seeing that 1 m.m. of mercury equals 13 m.m. of water.

In the treatment of meningococcus meningitis he, as we might expect, pins his faith on the intraspinal injection of antimeningo-coccus serum; indeed he goes so far as to say that in every case in which turbid fluid has been obtained on puncture, “antimeningo-coccus serum should be injected immediately on the probability that the case is one of epidemic meningitis.” He believes that it is best to administer 30 c.c. of serum if so much can be removed; if only 15 or 20 c.c. can be removed, then 20 c.c. should be injected. And he adds: “I believe that the principle of diphtheria antitoxin, that as much serum as possible be given at one time, can be applied with the same beneficial effects, to the administration of antimeningo-coccus serum.” He recommends that as long as bacteria are present, cells are numerous and the patient’s temperature is high, the serum should be administered twice daily. “It has been my plan to administer 30 c.c. of serum the first time, 30 c.c. the second, third and fourth times, making 120 c.c. in all, irrespective of the cerebrospinal findings. Then if the temperature continues high and the cerebrospinal fluid shows the presence of many cells, after waiting one day I administer 30 c.c. additionally even if no bacteria are present. I then wait two days longer, and if the case shows no change for the better I administer 30
c.c. more.” To clinch his argument he gives details of a case which died of cerebrospinal meningitis. His reports end: “If the patient had received sufficient serum, she would most likely have recovered from the disease and remained well.” She had had only 45 c.c. of serum, because the physician decided that as bacteria had disappeared from the fluid no more was needed.

He believes that the Swift-Ellis treatment of syphilis of the nervous system (by injection of the patient’s own serum taken one hour after he has received an intravenous injection of N. A. B.) is of use, but must be carefully carried out so as to avoid infection of the theca and suppurative meningitis.

Altogether a most admirable work, which shows how hard the author has worked to advance our knowledge of the cerebrospinal fluid.

Physiology of the Central Nervous System and Special Senses.—By N. J. Vazifdar, l. m. & s. Third Edition. Thoroughly revised and enlarged, with 18 illustrations. Bombay, 1920. S. Govind & Co. Price Rs. 3/12.

This little book, which has been carefully revised and enlarged, is thoroughly up to date. It is not intended to take the place of exhaustive books on the subject, but is meant to be read as a brief résumé of the subject. It is, in fact, a rehash of the standard text-books. This, however, does not detract from its value as an introduction to the physiology of the central nervous system for students, for whom it is intended. It can be confidently recommended as a book to be read with a course of lectures. The type is large and clear and the illustrations excellent. The price should be within the means of the average student. On the whole, the author may be congratulated on having produced a book of distinct utility to the Indian student.

Diseases of the Eye (Catechism Series).—By William George Sym, m.d., f.r.c.s.e.

Physics, Part I. Second Edition. Zoology, Part I. By Robert A. Strag. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. Price 1s. 6d. net, each part.

It is unnecessary to dilate on the character of this well-known series of publications. Suffice it to say that they have been thoroughly revised and brought up to date.

Their chief use would seem to be for rapid revision of a subject by students and others about to sit for examinations.

Radiography in the Examination of the Liver, Gall-Bladder, and Bile Ducts.—By Robert Knox, m.d. London. Wm. Heinemann, Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This work should be in the hands of every Radiologist. It is a complete study, from the radiological point of view, of the liver, gall-bladder, and bile ducts. The opening pages are concerned with anatomical details. The book is profusely illustrated with diagrams, photographs and excellent skiagrams. It should prove useful not only to the Radiologist, but also as a work of reference for the practising Surgeon or Physician.

Half a Century of Smallpox and Vaccination.—By John C. McVail, m.d., l.l.d., Edin. (1919). E. and S. Livingstone. Price 5s. 6d. net.

We here in India need no written proof of the efficacy of vaccination, for we can read the proof in the freedom from loss of eyesight due to smallpox which the younger generation enjoys as compared with the older generation. Still we may read with pleasure this work which is based on the Milroy lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians in 1919 by the veteran protagonist of vaccination. He insists on the necessity of re-vaccination; so do we. Let those who have India’s commercial prosperity at heart see to it that her ports are not allowed to become infected because only primary vaccination is compulsory. The erstwhile capital has had a severe lesson—let it profit by it.

A Text-book of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.—By Rai Bahadur Jaising P. Modi, l.r.c.p. & s. (Edin.), l.r.f.p.s. (Glas.). London, 1920. Butterworth & Co. Price Rs. 10 net.

This is not a text-book, for it does not contain a single reference whereby the statements made in it are culled from other works may be verified. It presumably represents the teaching of Dr. Modi, who is lecturer on Forensic Medicine at Lucknow; and what it teaches regarding the examination of the individual in cases of assault, rape, etc., and the cadaver in cases of violent death, is good. The section on toxicology is also good. That on insanity requires to be rewritten by a man who is in touch with modern psychiatry: for, however much the differentiation of insanity into monomania, moral mania and the like may accord with the practice of fifty years ago, and the knowledge of the legal profession of to-day, it is not well that students should not have the opportunity of learning what progress has been made in the last half century in this subject. It is not well that they should be taught that “sexual excess, mental worry and overstrain” cause general paralysis. If ever a second edition of this work appears, the author should have its English thoroughly revised, and the proofs read and supervised by some one who is thoroughly conversant with such work; for as it stands, this work abounds in very bad English and contains not a few really appalling misprints.

Correspondence.

Preliminary Note on the Treatment of Leprosy by Antimony.

To the Editor of The Indian Medical Gazette.

Sir,—Since the discovery of antimony as a specific in Kalazar and other allied diseases, we have treated some