NEW BOOKS.

*Malingerer and Feigned Sickness.* By Sir John Collie, M.D., J.P.
Assisted by Arthur H. Spicer, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.
London: Edward Arnold. 1913. Price 10s. 6d.

This work supplies a want, for all authorities are agreed that since the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the National Insurance Act malingering and valetudinarianism have become much more frequent. The work is based on a large personal experience. The author is medical officer to two large public bodies, and to some fifteen or twenty insurance companies, which send sick and injured workmen to him for his opinion as to their fitness for work or otherwise. He states that for some years past he has seen approximately 2000 such cases a year, and that 25 per cent. (1 in every 4) were reported to be fit for work. The majority of these were not typical malingerers, but they would nevertheless, from various causes, have unduly prolonged their illnesses.

In the author's opinion the best means of preventing malingering may be briefly stated as follows:—"(1) A system of organised lay-inspection. (2) Repeated, periodical, independent medical supervision. (3) Complete independence of the medical attendant. (4) Some system of registration which shall make apparent what is the full amount of sick-pay and other benefit, if any, that the patient is in receipt of."

In illustration of the value of periodic medical examination the author states: "In the case of a large group of employees in a public service, all of whom had been medically examined before entering the service, and were entitled to medical attendance by district medical officers paid by capitation grant, it was found that, prior to the institution of the independent medical inspection after twenty-eight days, the total number of days men were on the sick-list amounted in one year to 14,400; whereas, subsequent to the institution of the new rule, this number was reduced to 9600—a reduction, in a well-organised and disciplined small force, of no less than 4800 days in one year, the percentage of reduction being 33\(\frac{1}{3}\). During the corresponding periods the total number of men sick for more than twenty-eight days was reduced by the somewhat surprising figure of 50 per cent."

In order to detect and prevent malingering in insured persons the author states: "It is therefore advisable that medical men should be appointed to whom doubtful cases could be referred. Such men should have a special training in dealing with doubtful cases of malingering; they should have no local associations, and each one should have a circuit which he would traverse at stated periods. If such appointments were made, a local medical man who is in doubt as to whether
a certain individual is abusing the National Insurance funds would have the opportunity of advising a consultation with the medical referee of the district.

"The odium of sending back to work a man reluctant to resume would thus be removed from the shoulders of the doctor who was actually attending him, who would naturally be averse to performing such an unpleasant duty. The mere fact that such inspectors were appointed would tend to counteract the laxity and favouritism which might otherwise be shown.

"In Germany it has been found that it pays the administrators or managers of pension funds (which are equivalent to our approved societies) to appoint special doctors to examine persons in receipt of sickness benefit. Experience shows that they have saved the funds more than the amount of their salaries."

The greater part of the work is devoted to the medical examination of patients who allege disability as the result of accident or disease. As the result of his large practical experience the author makes numerous shrewd remarks and gives many valuable hints, which cannot fail to be of great use in dealing with cases of suspected malingering. Scattered throughout the book there are numerous illustrative cases. The work should be carefully studied by the general practitioner.

General Paresis. By Professor Emil Kraepelin. Translated by J. W. Moore, M.D. No. 14 of the Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series. Pp. 200. 1913. Price $3.

This work is a translation of a chapter from the last edition of Kraepelin's Text-Book of Psychiatry. In it we have a very full and lucid discussion of general paralysis—as regards its symptomatology, etiology, post-mortem findings, etc. The author is of opinion that the disease is influenced to a large extent by the use of alcohol. He suggests that "perhaps the general deterioration in the health of the race through alcoholic intemperance, still more than the personal alcoholic habit, may increase the susceptibility to paresis." Many facts regarding various nations are given in support of this conception. The theory of Ford Robertson and M'Rae that the disease is due to a diphtheroid bacillus is mentioned, only to be looked on as being incompatible with all established experience and theory regarding general paralysis. It is remarkable that in a book so recently published no mention is made of Noguchi's discovery of the spirochete in the brain of those dying of dementia paralytica. The chapters dealing with the diagnosis and post-mortem findings are especially good. The book can be recommended to physicians as one which is likely to give them a clear and wide conception of general paralysis.
The Difficulties and Emergencies of Obstetric Practice. By Comyns Berkeley, M.D., etc., and Victor Bonney, M.D., etc. Pp. 787. With 287 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1913. Price 24s.

The aim of this work is an excellent one, viz. to give the practitioner an account of the difficulties and emergencies of obstetric practice. Some of the rarer complications can thus be given, and this will supplement the accounts of our ordinary systematic text-books, where rare conditions are often omitted. On the whole the subjects treated of are well done, but in too general a manner, and it would have been better for the authors to have taken up only difficult forceps cases, such, for instance, as deep transverse cases, non-rotated, and cases where forceps had to be applied in posterior positions where no rotation had occurred. These complications, however, are dismissed in five lines, although special methods of applying forceps in such malpositions have been described and practised.

The weak point of the book is that any explanation of the pathology or mechanism underlying pathological states is occasionally behind date. Some instances of this may be given.

In rupture of the uterus all that is said is as follows:—"It was pointed out by T. Hicks that spontaneous rupture of the uterus is most often met with in multigravidæ, in whom more or less degeneration of the uterine wall, due to repeated child-bearing, has occurred. The appreciation of this fact is very important, because current teaching has always laid most stress on obstruction as the first factor in the causation of rupture" (p. 422). This is, of course, true, and if the authors believe this, why not discuss the degeneration and the special tissues affected—the elastic tissue for instance? No notice is taken of the great point Bandl established, namely, the higher position of the retraction ring above the pubes, the thinning of the lower uterine segment, and the alterations in the position of the uterine attachment of the round ligaments. It is this that enables the practitioner to recognise threatened rupture, and the omission of the points in diagnosis is serious.

The incompleteness of the description of the cause of the separation of the placenta in placenta prævia is another instance, and in writing of paraplegia the authors have not availed themselves of Routh's and A. Bruce's work. These points and several others should be more thoroughly and accurately considered and treated of in a future edition.

The illustrations are boldly and well done, not too diagrammatic and not too detailed. The statement, however, in the preface that "all of these (the illustrations) are original" is too sweeping. Fig. 22, inversion of the uterus, is based on an illustration in Bumm's Grundriss (Fig. 498, 3rd edition) with the twist of the inverted organs reversed,
and Fig. 55 appears to owe something to Bumm's Fig. 480. The almost total absence of any literature or of any allusion to other observers is unfortunate, as it does not allow of a practitioner following up the literature of any case, and indeed gives him the idea that all that can be said has been said in the special section.

The publisher and artist have done their work well, and on the whole the book can be recommended.

**Glycosuria and Allied Conditions.** By P. J. Cammidge. Pp. 467. London: Edward Arnold. 1913. Price 16s. net.

In this book the author has successfully summarised in an accessible form one of the most complex problems of medicine. As he himself says, it is a subject of interest to the physiologist, the pathologist, the chemist, and the physician, and as a result the literature on the subject has assumed enormous proportions. The task of keeping the essentials of the subject within its present limits can have been no light one. The book may be cordially recommended from two points of view—as an extremely succinct résumé of the literature of the subject, and as a valuable guide to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition based upon the conclusions at which the author has arrived.

The book is one which will appeal to the practitioner as well as to the specialist, and contains many useful hints in diagnosis and treatment of an essentially practical nature. The major half of the book is devoted to the chemistry and physiology of the condition. It is interesting to note that as a result of his experience the author prefers to rely on Benedict's test as a preliminary test in the routine examination for sugar. The author gives a modification of his original pancreatic reaction, and strongly emphasises the importance of early recognition of pancreatic diseases, and particularly those of an inflammatory type. Even as it stands, the exhaustive nature of the monograph makes it impossible to do justice to it within the limits of a short review.

**Eye-Strain in Everyday Practice.** By Sydney Stephenson, C.M., F.R.C.S. Pp. 139. London: The Ophthalmoscope Press. 1913. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This book contains reprints of articles on eye-strain and cognate subjects which have appeared at various times during the last decade in the columns of the medical press, together with the Middlemore Lecture delivered at Birmingham in 1910. The author is well known as a prominent London ophthalmologist and a voluminous writer in all departments of ophthalmic science and practice. It consists of seven chapters:—Eye-strain and its detection in practice, ocular headaches, some unusual forms of migraine in children, habit-spasm and eye-strain, a common appearance of the optic disc liable to be mistaken for optic papillitis, cases of eye-strain simulating grave organic
disease of the central nervous system, and the aftermath of eye-strain. Most of the opinions stated coincide with our own—for example, the necessity for the use of atropine to produce complete cycloplegia in correcting minute defects in refraction, and the importance of low forms of refractive errors in the causation of headache. We have had the pleasure of reading most of the papers before, and are glad to have them in the convenient form here presented. The author is to be congratulated on this valuable addition to ophthalmic literature, and we heartily recommend its perusal to all concerned.

A Treatise on Pellagra. By Edward Jenner Wood, S.B., M.D. Pp. 377. New York and London: D. Appleton & Co. 1912. Price 16s. net.

This volume gives a very full description of the disease. Considerable prominence is given to the scientific work which has been done with regard to the etiology of the disease, and the different theories are very fully discussed from an unbiased standpoint. Although it is primarily intended for the general practitioner of America, the practitioner in this country would do well to make himself familiar with this disease, which has recently been shown to occur in this country. The illustrations of the skin manifestations give as good a representation of the appearances as it is possible to get from ordinary photographs.

Electro-Therapeutics for Practitioners. By Francis Howard Humphris, M.D.(Brux.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.). Pp. 243. Illustrated. London: Edward Arnold. 1913. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This book is not a compendium on electro-therapeutics, but rather a series of essays on those forms of electrical and of light treatment which the author has found most useful in practice. It will therefore be of more service to the practitioner than to the student. The author is a believer in static electricity and in the high-power incandescent light; he recommends the use of the static-wave current for dyspepsia, for enlarged spleen, for enlarged prostate, and for pain, even that due to locomotor ataxia. There is a chapter on the treatment of obesity by Bergonie's method. The author states on page 17 that the sparks passing from the negative electrode are brighter and whiter than those from the positive; the latter are said to be more violet. Is not the reverse the case? On page 9 Guericke's name is wrongly spelt. There is an interesting chapter on "Lessons from Failures," and a good index. The book is written in an easy style and is well printed, and it can be commended to those who are interested in electro-therapeutics.