end of the disease, the benefit gained in the relief of suffering and in the added comfort would well repay them for any inconvenience that the radium had caused. The study of the radium treatment of carcinoma has just begun. Some at the very outset are already discouraged, and are stating that they are unwilling to believe in its efficacy. The failure to gain uniformly reliable results is probably due to imperfect knowledge of the methods by which the radiations can be controlled, of the amount of radium which should be used, and of the correct duration of the exposures. The important principle has been proved that under proper application radium will destroy a superficially placed cancer cell. Granting this, it is by no means impossible that, with increased knowledge, deeply seated cells may be successfully reached and destroyed, while the surrounding tissues are effectively protected.

In the discussion which followed, one speaker drew attention to the severe burns which may follow its application. It is difficult to properly screen the material when placed in the mouth, nose, or naso-pharynx: if too little is used the action is not sufficient; if too much, the burns may be very severe. He emphasised the late appearance of the burns in some cases, and recorded another instance where the radium destroyed the growth in the nose, and at the same time it destroyed the external nose. Reference was also made to the possibility of stimulating the action of the growth by the use of too weak applications. Jackson described the technic adopted in the treatment of laryngeal carcinoma. Tracheotomy is performed, and the capsule containing the radium being anchored to the cannula is pushed upward into the larynx. The capsule is composed of gold, on to which a coating of hard rubber is vulcanised. The process of vulcanising the rubber prevents any possibility of detachment. The tracheotomy tube is then inserted, the threads from the radium capsule being tied to the shield of the cannula.

A. L. T.

NEW BOOKS.

*Medical Diseases of the War.* By Arthur F. Hurst. Pp. 151. London: Edward Arnold. 1917. Price 6s. net.

This book is, as the author states in his preface, a record of his own observations of the various diseases contracted during active service in the war, and also the consideration of practically all recent literature that bears on the subject. It is clearly and concisely written, and nowhere shows any trace of hurry or unevenness.
It is divided into ten chapters, of which the longest is that on functional nervous diseases. In these conditions treatment by suggestion and hypnotism has evidently proved very successful in the author's hands.

In the chapter on dysentery the important part played by flies in the spread of the various forms of this disease is fully emphasised. Nothing, however, is said about the effect of emetine treatment on the heart.

Trench fever is described as a lice-borne protozoal infection of the red blood corpuscles. It is stated that there has been no fatal case. There is no treatment which prevents the return of fever in the prolonged form of the disease. Acetyl-salicylic acid is the most useful analgesic in the condition.

Beri-beri, paratyphoid fever, epidemic jaundice, soldier's heart, war nephritis, and gas poisoning are all dealt with in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

Dr. Hurst is to be congratulated on the production of one of the best and most useful books that the war has given rise to.

_Care and Feeding of Infants and Children: A Text-Book for Trained Nurses._ By Walter Reeve Ramsey. Pp. x. + 290. With 123 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1916. Price 9s. net.

This book contains much more information than its title suggests. Within its pages there is a veritable _rücksumé_ of diseases in childhood. It is all most interesting and excellently illustrated, and should form an attractive "Text-Book for Trained Nurses," more particularly for those of the New World. But we cannot help feeling that there is a great deal more here than is wise or necessary to set before the most highly-trained nurse or lay child-welfare worker. For the nurse with lengthy practical experience, or the motherly woman with good education and sound common sense, the book should prove attractive and useful, if something of a luxury.

The contents of the book are, however, to a large extent unnecessary study, and for a young nurse we certainly consider a less comprehensive text-book advisable.

_Extra-Ocular Pressure and Myopia._ By Islay B. Muirhead, M.D. Pp. vi. + 96. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 1916.

This little book appears to have been written with the object of showing that myopia is not caused by excessive use of the eyes for near work, and that it should not be treated by the use of fully-correcting glasses. While most ophthalmologists will subscribe to at
least the first of the author's propositions, few will agree with, even if they can follow, the course of the argument and the grounds upon which it is based. Most of what is accepted as evidence is highly controversial matter, and of doubtful value even if proved. The author's conclusions are already accepted by many on different and sounder grounds, and it is difficult to see how they are strengthened by the present work.

A Text-Book of Pathology. By W. G. MacCallum, Professor of Pathology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. Pp. xv. + 1085. With 575 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1916. Price 35s.

The clearest indication of the plan and scope of this work can be given by a quotation from the preface:—

"An effort has been made to discuss the general principles of pathology as illustrated by a study of the commoner and more important diseases. It is, therefore, in no sense intended as a book of reference. No attempt has been made to describe systematically all the diseased conditions which may occur in each organ, and for that reason there is no division into general and special pathology. Instead, the whole is constructed upon the idea that all pathological disturbances are the result of some form of injury, or of the immediate or more remote reactions of the body to injury. It has been found possible to carry out this conception quite logically except where, as in the case of tumours, we are quite ignorant of the causes of the disease."

In reviewing a book of this nature we feel that criticism of details is less important than to determine how far the author has been successful in his attempt to place the teaching of pathology upon a logical and rational basis—that of causation; and we may say at once that he has been highly successful, at least so far as is possible at the present time.

The book begins with eight chapters on the blood and tissue fluids, and on the structure and metabolism of the cell, both normal and perverted. In this section there are important chapters on disturbances of fat, protein, carbohydrate, and pigment metabolism. The following five chapters deal with the defences of the body against injury, and to these succeed four chapters on illustrative examples of inflammatory and reparative processes. The greater part of the volume—twenty-eight chapters—is occupied with the discussion of the action of various types of "injury," this term being employed in its widest sense to include all injurious agencies and influences which bring about a departure from the state of health. After a chapter on arthritis
deformans and related diseases, the rest of the book—ten chapters—is taken up with the discussion of tumour-growth.

Though the whole book reaches a very high standard, we would draw attention to the chapters dealing with metabolism, and especially to those upon diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs, and on diseases due to injuries of the organs of internal secretion. These last are the best in the book, and we question whether a better presentation of the subjects concerned is available in any other textbook of pathology.

A valuable feature of the book is the frequent reference to defects in our knowledge, or to the lack of adequate support for many generally accepted explanations and theories. This will help to indicate the general fairness and breadth of outlook with which Professor MacCallum's extensive experience and wide knowledge have been applied.

As we have already remarked, criticism is here of secondary importance, for even though we are not in accord with some of the author's views—as, for example, those on diseases of blood-vessels and of kidneys—we recognise that opinions and descriptions of these diseases vary in almost exact proportion to the number of pathologists who possess any considerable length of experience and have developed independent views.

It is evident that Professor MacCallum's spiritual home, like that of a well-known politician, is in Germany, and though we acknowledge that we have to thank German investigators for a vast amount of progress in pathology, it is to be hoped that the contributions of France, Italy, and Great Britain are not so insignificant as might be inferred from the predominance of references in this book to German literature.

The illustrations, some of them in colour, are very fine. The book is well got up, and the only printer's errors we have noticed occur in the references and in the index.

The volume, as a whole, is worthy of Professor MacCallum's reputation.

Handbook of Surgical Operations. By K. K. Chatterji, F.M.C.S.I. Pp. 238. With 53 Illustrations. Calcutta: Butterworth & Co. 1916. Price 7s. 6d. net.

The author of this small handbook is lecturer on operative surgery at the Campbell Medical School in India, and the text has been based on his course of lectures. A judicious selection of operations has been made and alternative methods of operating have been omitted, as such are liable to confuse the student. The descriptions are concise and clear, and are generally prefaced by a short account of the surgical
anatomy of the part and of the indications for operating. The illustrations are well designed and reproduced, and include several coloured plates. The text-book should prove useful to students studying operative surgery for the first time.

NEW EDITIONS.

Essentials of Chemical Physiology. By W. D. Halliburton. Ninth Edition. Pp. xi. + 324. With 72 Illustrations. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1916. Price 6s. net.

On the appearance of the ninth edition of this book it may not be out of place to refer to some of the merits by which it has established its place in the educational literature of physiology.

Physiological chemistry, like histology, must be taught in part by practical method; like histology, too, it is inadequately dealt with in the ordinary text-books of physiology. Professor Halliburton's book is not only a practical guide, but fulfils the function of a text-book of the subject.

On the practical side it is admirable. The experiments are carefully chosen, there is no overloading with detail, and the material is representative. The author nowhere succumbs to the temptation, to which less experienced teachers are prone, of exalting the interest in pure chemistry as an object in itself; for weal or for woe the student who has reached physiology must be considered as having attained a certain standard of chemical apprehension. Each practical lesson is followed by a general account, in which the subject-matter of the experiments is presented in its wider bearing. The method is, of course, excellent, and the author's power of exposition is seen to advantage, especially in the general part. The book contains also an advanced course and a voluminous "Appendix," in which special apparatus is described and some accounts of physical and colloidal chemistry given.

Diseases of the Eye. By G. E. De Schweinitz. Eighth Edition. Pp. 697. With 386 Illustrations and Seven Coloured Plates. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1916. Price 21s.

The appearance of the eighth edition of this well-known work is a matter for congratulation to the author and his collaborators. Without increasing the size of the book a considerable amount of new matter has been introduced, bringing the text thoroughly up to date. Metric equivalents for the ordinary doses and strengths of solutions have been added. The paragraphs on the field of vision have been amplified,