NEW BOOKS.

Surgical Contributions from 1881 to 1916. By Rutherford Morison, M.B., F.R.C.S.(Edin.). Vol. I. Pp. 439. With 124 Illustrations. Vol. II. Pp. 955. With 131 Illustrations. Bristol: Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1916. Price 42s. net the Two Volumes.

These two handsome volumes are dedicated to Mr. Morison's house surgeons, and have been edited by Dr. D'Oyly Grange of Harrogate. We are informed that they were published by request, and that they comprise practically all Mr. Morison's contributions to literature. Synchronising as they do with Mr. Morison's retirement from the acting staff of the Newcastle Royal Infirmary, there is the suggestion of a memorial element, which the reader will be ready to refute, for the impression conveyed is that the author is in the full exercise and practice of his profession.

It is refreshing to find that Mr. Morison has not confined his energies to any restricted field—not that we deprecate specialism, for it can lay claim to a large share in the advance of medical and surgical knowledge, but we find a broader view in the subjects selected for discussion, and an appeal is made to a much wider circle of readers.

In the first volume, which treats of general surgery, we find the author at his best on such subjects as the technique of operations and the treatment of aneurysm; the article on lesions of the semilunar cartilages of the knee is convincing. Newcastle being the centre of one of the largest coal-mining industries, the widest personal experience of a keen observer is at the disposal of the reader.

The second and much larger volume deals with the surgery of the abdomen, in the evolution of which Mr. Morison has played a pioneer's part. Two articles are concerned with the operative treatment of ascites, with which his name will always be associated. We confess to a preference for those articles in which Mr. Morison lets himself go, and states his views and conclusions forcibly and dogmatically, to those in which he merely allows his experience to be recorded in the form of notes, as is the case, for example, in the article on ileo-sigmoidostomy.

In completing a notice of these attractive volumes we feel that they represent a type of medical publications which is, unfortunately, rare in this country, and we would hope, by extending to them a warm welcome, that other hospital physicians and surgeons, when they reach the acme of their experience, would put it on record, in such form as these, to the advantage of those who are to follow in their footsteps.
The last refuge of the general surgeon seems to be in danger. It has long been prophesied that the ever-increasing growth of specialities would in time leave to him only the umbilicus. And now Dr. Thomas Stephen Cullen has produced a monumental work, in large octavo, of nearly 700 pages, devoted to the consideration of the embryology, anatomy, and diseases of the umbilicus, together with the diseases of the urachus. Verily, the umbilicus has come into its own in the matter of literature, and there seems ample material for the establishment of yet another speciality—of umbilicology.

The author confesses that up till the year 1904 he had thought that hernia was practically the only lesion to be noted in this locality. A chance case of cancer of the umbilicus, which he happened to meet with in his practice, sent him to the library in search of any records extant of a similar condition. He was astonished at the wealth of material on the umbilicus which he found scattered through the literature of surgery, and decided to collect and analyse it. The result of his labours astonishes us. His investigation has been most thoroughly done—"the mere assembling of the literature to the end of 1912 took three years"—and, with the aid of a number of collaborators, he has summarised what had been written up to that date so completely that no one need go further than his pages to find the gist of what has previously been written on the subject.

With the aid of a series of excellent diagrams made by Max Brödel, the description of the embryology of the umbilical region is rendered perfectly clear, and the understanding of the various congenital defects that are later described is greatly facilitated. The section on the anatomy of the umbilicus is illustrated by four plates containing sixty drawings of "normal umbilici," no two of which bear more than a superficial resemblance to one another. In fact, the differences are so marked that it is difficult to conceive a normal type. The author, indeed, has had to divide them into no fewer than nine groups.

A chapter is devoted to umbilical infections in the new-born, each form of infection being illustrated with notes of a few typical cases. Umbilical hemorrhage is dealt with in a most instructive and useful way. The numerous conditions associated with aberrations of the omphalo-mesenteric duct are fully described and profusely illustrated, as are also those of urachal abnormalities. Among other chapters of real clinical value are those on umbilical concretions, tumours, and infective granulomata.

As we have already indicated, this work represents an enormous
amount of literary research, as well as pathological and clinical observation, and it forms a valuable source of reference. A full bibliography is appended to each chapter, and there is a comprehensive index. The illustrations reach a high standard of excellence.

_A Text-Book of Surgery_. By Richard Warren, Assistant-Surgeon to the London Hospital. In Two Volumes, each of 700 Pages. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1915. Price 25s. net.

Mr. Warren's _Text-Book of Surgery_ has been well received, because it presents many attractive features; it is eminently readable—in itself a notable achievement—and it apparently combines a successful selection of what the student is expected to know at examinations, and of what will serve him as a guide in practice. It wisely refrains from any attempt to cover the whole range of modern surgery, but it gives a good account of the injuries and diseases commonly included in a course of surgery, and a useful résumé of the operations belonging thereto, such as amputation, excisions, the ligation of arteries, and those on the head, thorax, and abdomen, which a man, even if engaged in general practice, ought to know something about.

In a new work there cannot fail to be omissions as well as mistakes. We cannot find any reference to transfusion of blood or to trench feet, and there are doubtless others. We do not agree with the author's teaching on bullet wounds of the abdomen, or with the statements concerning wounds by shot-guns. The account of gas gangrene is meagre; the old fallacy is repeated that gangrene is more likely to follow obstruction of the main artery if the vein is also occluded; the results of treatment of senile gangrene by arteriovenous anastomosis are spoken of in more favourable terms than is warranted by the facts.

Apart, however, from these and other minor subjects for criticism, regarding many of which it may be confessed that there is scope for differences of opinion, it is our pleasing duty to congratulate Mr. Warren on having produced an admirable text-book of surgery, and we have every confidence in anticipating for it a long and successful career.

_Diseases of Children_. By A. Dingwall Fordyce, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Edin.). Pp. 483. With 32 Plates and 84 Illustrations. London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1916. Price 10s. 6d. net.

There are many excellent books on the subject of children's diseases, but practically all are either very large or professedly non-systematic. This book, written by Dr. Dingwall Fordyce, has provided for the practitioner and student a practical modern manual, systematic, but, at the same time, small and complete. What one notices most about
the book is, that subjects which are of real practical importance to the general practitioner, such as feeding, congenital syphilis, etc., are dealt with exhaustively, whilst such rare conditions (and of much less practical importance) as osteogenesis imperfecta, oxycephaly, etc., are given a clear but short notice. The illustrations are numerous and excellent. The whole book is good, and well worthy to be in the library of every practitioner and student.

_Growth in Length: Embryological Essays._ By Richard Assheton, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S., Trinity College, Cambridge, etc. Pp. 104. With 42 Illustrations. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1916. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This valuable contribution to the deeper problems of the early growth of the embryo in length among vertebrata consists of three lectures in the "Advanced Courses in Zoology" in the University of London. In addition, an essay on the "Mechanics of Gastrulation" is reprinted. The whole work, though slight in bulk, "represents the summation of an investigation carried on for more than twenty years."

The first lecture takes up the question of concrescence of the embryo, first considered by His of Leipzig, and is thus stated by Minot, who, in 1897, defined concrescence as follows:—"The passage from the stage of segmentation to the first embryonic stage is effected in vertebrata by means of certain migrations of embryonic material from lateral positions to median positions and subsequent union in the middle line. . . ." Thus, "Concrescence is the typical means of forming the primitive streak in vertebrata." By experiments with bristles placed in the gastrulating egg of _rana temporaria_, the author claims to have shown that part of the embryo is enveloped _in situ_ on the egg, and part later by the activity of the blastopore lip. "These are the protogenetic and deuterogenetic regions respectively" (pp. 19 and 20); and he declares, therefore, against the concrescence theory. At page 54 his conclusions are given as follows:—

"To sum up, we may say, both from anatomical observation and from experiment, that growth in length of the embryo in all inanimate chordates must be considered to be due to the origin of a special area of cell production round the lips of the blastopore, which connects the spherical form of the gastrula into the cylindrical form of the later embryo. Since this area of necessity comes into being only after the gastrula is formed, we may recognise two regions in the later embryo. One of these regions is the direct result of the segmentation of the ovum culminating in the gastrula and having the general character of a radially symmetrical form, and this is, on the whole, to be identified with the coelenterate phase of evolution. The region of the body so arising has been named the protogenetic region. The
other region is that of later origin, produced by the proliferation of the lips of the gastrula mouth. This has been called the deuterogenetic region. The part formed from the protogenetic region includes the fore-brain, probably also the mid-brain, the mouth, and possibly the hind-brain as far as the origin of the fifth and eighth nerves, the branchial region and heart, and probably much of the gut. The part formed from the deuterogenetic region comprises the remainder of the hind-brain and spinal cord and tail, the whole of the metamERICALLY segmented mesoderm and, in the craniates, the renal organs. As regards the reproductive organs there is much evidence to show that in the craniate chordates the actual germ-cells are, as one would expect, protogenetic in origin, but that they migrate during development into the deuterogenetic region, and here undergo their maturation, and eventually find their way to the exterior by means of the deuterogenetic channels of the coelom or renal apparatus. The same relations between the two regions probably hold good for the amniotes, though in them experimental evidence is obtained less easily.

This is a remarkable generalisation, and it is to be regretted the author was taken away from a piece of work which has great possibilities in regard to heredity. There is, unfortunately, not space to discuss the reprint on the “Mechanics of Gastrulation,” which is well worthy of study.

Obstetrics: Normal and Operative. By George Peaslee Shears, M.D.
Pp. 734. With 419 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1916. Price 25s. net.

The author of this text-book, Dr. George Peaslee Shears, Professor of Obstetrics in the New York Polyclinic Medical School, claims to have based his work on a somewhat different plan from that most generally adopted. While not discarding the theory of pure obstetrics, he has endeavoured to introduce the essentials of practical obstetrics wherever possible. With this objective the author has purposely omitted the traditional preliminary chapters on anatomy and embryology.

A chapter is devoted to the important subject of antepartum examination, the importance of which could not be better emphasised than by the introduction of such an excellent series of original photographs.

In the treatment of eclampsia we note that Dr. Shears still strongly advocates the use of morphia, and holds that the objections to its use are purely theoretical. While he refers to the use of veratrum viride, he has not apparently had any experience of the remarkable influence of veratrone in controlling the convulsions.

Foetal mortality in labour has a special chapter allotted to it, and we agree with the author’s remark that this is an important but much neglected subject. It certainly does not receive, in the majority of
obstetric works, the attention it calls for. The author's experiments with the inhalation of oxygen by the mother, and its effect on the foetal heart, are interesting and likely to prove of practical value.

"Twilight sleep," which is at the present time attracting so much attention, has received full discussion, and we are glad to see that the author sharply discriminates between the true "twilight sleep" as devised and carried out by Kronig and Gauss, and the somewhat haphazard scopolamine-morphine treatment which most of us have carried out for several years.

The author has come to the conclusion, however, that true "twilight sleep" is not suitable in general practice, and advises a partial substitute. He is satisfied with the relief afforded during the first stage of labour by one injection of morphine and hyosine, followed by a second of hyosine only; while during the second stage he advises no hyosine, and relies on the administration of ether only.

The section devoted to obstetric operations is particularly well handled. These are clearly described and well illustrated. The discussion of pubiotomy, for instance, commends itself to us as thoroughly sound.

The author is to be congratulated on a free expression of individual opinion, and on having achieved the task he set himself to accomplish—that of writing a practical work. We consider it eminently practical, and calculated to prove a reliable guide to the general practitioner.

The Art of Anaesthesia. By PALNEL J. FLAGG, M.D. Pp. ix. + 336. With 136 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1916. Price 15s. net.

In the words of the author, an American anaesthetist, "this book is intended as a groundwork upon which the student, intern and general practitioner, may acquire a more comprehensive knowledge of the art of anaesthesia."

After discussing what is termed complete general anaesthesia, in which attention is paid to the signs of anaesthesia, the preparation of the patient, and the general precautions to be taken in order to avoid excitement and rigidity, the subject of ether anaesthesia is taken up in detail.

On the whole, this section is the best in the book. The various methods are fully described, the author's preference being apparently for what he calls the "closed drop method," with rebreathing bag and device for using nitrous oxide gas as a preliminary.

Brief, and in the opinion of the reviewer altogether inadequate, chapters are devoted to chloroform and chloride of ethyl. The author's objections to their use are based on their dangers as compared with other available anaesthetics. In view of the widespread
use of both, an adequate description of how to use them and how to minimise their dangers seems called for in a book intended for the use of students and general practitioners.

The author writes with enthusiasm regarding the use of nitrous oxide oxygen anaesthesia with or without ether, and his description of the method and his general remarks thereon are clear and satisfactory.

Short chapters discuss local and spinal analgesia, preliminary medication, and post-operative treatment.

On the whole, if one remembers that the book is written for students, house surgeons, and general practitioners, one is struck by its uneven character. The sections on anaesthesia in general, and on ether and nitrous oxide anaesthesia in particular, are satisfactory. The same cannot be said of the discussion of chloroform and chloride of ethyl.

The book is copiously illustrated, well printed on good paper, and there is an adequate index.

The American Year-Book of Anaesthesia and Analgesia. By Various Contributors. F. H. M'Mechan, A.M., M.D., Editor. Pp. 420. With 250 Illustrations. New York: Surgery Publishing Co. 1916. Price $4.

The initial volume of this year-book is a notable one, and reflects great credit upon the editor and the publishers. It is made up of thirty-one papers, all written by Americans with the exception of two, and they are necessarily of such a disjointed nature that it is impossible to discuss them in a short review. This work was intended to be of an international character; but the war has prevented this, and the editor has been fortunate in obtaining as contributors many of the foremost authorities in America on the scientific, technical, and clinical aspects of anaesthesia. Certain subjects of vital interest are dealt with exhaustively in this volume, the intention being to bring them up to date by collective abstracts in subsequent volumes, and introduce and treat new subjects in a similar way. Some of the papers, such as those by Gatch, Yandell Henderson, Crile, Gwathmey, Levy, and Keith-muller, give the latest views of men who are keenly interested in their special branch and who have already written largely upon it. This volume not only records the year's scientific progress, especially as it affects America, but contains up-to-date papers of practical interest, not only to the general surgeon, but to the anaesthetist, and to other specialists, such as the obstetrician and the dentist. Some of the articles are of a novel character; for example, those dealing with analgesia from the patient's point of view, the use of music during anaesthesia and analgesia, and the treatment of the obstreperous dental patient. The value of many of the papers is enhanced by copious bibliographies and by good and instructive illustrations. We commend
the book to all interested in anaesthesia and analgesia, for they cannot fail to find in its pages much to interest and instruct them.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By Halliday G. Sutherland, M.D. Pp. ii. + 290. With 57 Illustrations. London: Cassell & Co., Ltd. 1916. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This is an excellent monograph on the subject of pulmonary tuberculosis, and ought to be read by every practitioner who desires to be acquainted with the most recent work on the subject, whether he is interested in it from the pathological and clinical, or from the economic, standpoint. After a clear, but not too elaborate, statement of the etiology and pathology of the disease, the symptoms and diagnosis are carefully gone into with the assistance to be derived from X-rays, bacteriology, and tuberculin. The last naturally receives a large measure of attention. Its theory is clearly and carefully described, and the various methods of applying it for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes are gone into with minuteness and precision. As the author looks upon pulmonary tuberculosis as a systemic infection, spreading by way of the lymphatic and blood-channels, with resultant local lesions in the lungs, he regards open-air treatment, either at home or in a sanatorium, as the sheet-anchor of success in treatment. While a whole-hearted advocate for the vaccine treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by means of tuberculin, in order to raise the immunising power of the tissues, he recognises the limits of the method, and uses it rather as an adjunct than as the main weapon of attack. The indications for and against its use are carefully described, and rules are laid down for the guidance of the practitioner in its administration, by attention to which this two-edged instrument may be deprived of its dangers and used to the greatest advantage. There is a useful chapter on the dietetics of the disease, and the author calls attention to the necessity for avoiding the gross practice of forced feeding—a method of typical German origin which is neither refined nor scientific. Drugs have their place in the treatment of the disease, but it is a minor place. They must be used for a definite purpose, e.g. to check vomiting, or night sweats, or ease the cough, and when that purpose is achieved they ought to be discarded, as they have no influence on the tubercular process and may become actually harmful. Treatment throughout should be based on scientific knowledge, and its main object is to control the intoxication and raise the patient's resistance by a regulated life under conditions of pure air and by avoidance of debilitating influences.

The book is produced in an attractive form, and contains almost no printer's errors. The only one, indeed, that we have observed being on page 223, where the description of the manufacture of artificial Romiss is unintelligible on that account.