Red Blood Cell Diameters. By Cecil Price-Jones, M.B.Lond. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1938. (10s. 6d. net.)

It seems very fitting that Price-Jones, in making available in book form the collection of his papers on red cell diameters which appeared in several journals from 1910 to 1932, should have given us more than a mere collection. This is an easily readable and lucid exposition of the morphology, physiological and pathological, of the red cell.

The opening chapter, a historical sketch of the discovery and early estimations of the size of the red cells, begins in true Tusitala style: "About 1610 in the small Dutch town of Middlebourg an obscure optician named Zacheric Jans made spectacles and polished lenses," and continues so. Then follows a very brief description of the making of films and arrangements for drawing and measuring the maximum and minimum cell diameters described in full in the original paper (Journ. Path. and Bact., Camb., 1920, vol. xxiii, p. 371). One has little need to consult Yule's Introduction to the Theory of Statistics concerning the understanding and calculation of the "mean," the "standard deviation," and the "variability," &c., since included are fairly lucid, explanatory and well-illustrated examples of simple arithmetical and elementary statistical processes. As well as being a collection sufficiently extensive from which to draw justifiable conclusions regarding the range of normality, Table 6, which gives the measurements and distribution of diameters in 100 healthy persons, affords more than ample material from which clinicians and intending workers in the field of hemocytometry may practise the drawing of curves, &c. Diurnal variations with relation to time and exercise and forced breathing are next dealt with, and the sequence of the original papers is observed when these are followed by a discussion on the size of red cells in emphysema. Consideration of the red cell diameters after hemorrhage—gastric and uterine—precedes the chapters on pernicious anemia and changes brought about in the diameters after liver treatment. The value of these contributions also is already acknowledged. The recent (1932) paper on the characters of the red cells in microcytic anemia (Witts) is included, the summaries of the eight individual cases of the original paper being excluded.
An appendix, comprising a few curves in cases of sprue, steatorrhoea, aplastic anemia, and polycythæmia, a list of references to the literature, and a comprehensive index conclude this book, which forms an essential companion to the author’s Blood Pictures, the third edition of which has just appeared.

A Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press) production, the quality of the printed page is of the usual excellence.

Qualitative Analysis. By H. S. Moodey, M.A. London: William Heinemann, Limited. 1933. (5s. net.)

This compact volume on qualitative inorganic chemistry has been written on the assumption that the study of physical chemistry can be to a large extent centred round qualitative analysis. The author appears to have justified this interesting experiment in compilation, and has produced a book which will be very useful to scholarship candidates and medical students preparing for their first professional examination.

The first third of this book consists of an introduction to the theoretical bases of physical chemistry, and, to the more advanced student, will form a concise summary of his early reading. To the beginner, the matter is sufficiently intelligible, but should be supplemented by wider reading. The analytical section is prefaced by a useful illustrated chapter on manipulation of apparatus. The methods recommended for the systematic investigation of single and mixed inorganic substances are clearly set out and a great many of the more recent advances in this field included.

Studies on the Physiology of the Eye, Still Reaction, Sleep, Dreams, Hibernation, Repression, Hypnosis, Narcosis, Coma and Allied Conditions. By J. Grandson Byrne, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1933. (40s. net.)

This book consists for the most part of the hitherto unpublished records of researches in the physiology of the eye, conducted by the author, during the last twenty years, in various laboratories in England, European countries, and America. Each of the first thirty-nine chapters describes an experimental research into some aspect of the pupillary, palpebral, ciliary and other reactions; the method of investigation, the experimental facts, and the inferences being systematically set out.

On the basis of these investigations the author indicates the analogy and association of pupillary and palpebral contraction, lens convexing and retraction of the eyeball, on the one hand,
and of pupillary and palpebral widening, lens flattening and proptosis, on the other hand; describes the reciprocal relations of these two sets of reactions, and relates them to the three basic forms of reaction in "approach," "avoidance," and "stand still," which he believes to underlie every reaction of the individual.

In two long and interesting chapters on the "still" reaction (death-feigning) and its relation to the mechanism of sleep, hibernation, coma and allied conditions, he works out the connexion between these phenomena and the pupillary and other reactions which have been the subject of his experimental researches.

In conclusion, he makes the large claim that the study of these reactions "furnishes a means for a better understanding of the physiological processes that underlie, or are associated with, all mental activity."

A full bibliography accompanies each chapter, and there is a good index, while there is a notable absence of errors or misprints, and the general production of the book is a credit to the publishers.

**Blood Diseases in Clinical Practice.** By Professor Dr. P. Morawitz, Leipzig. Translated from the Second German Edition by Dr. A. Piney, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1933. (7s. 6d. net.)

Essentially for the practitioner, no matter how busy, this handbook of one hundred pages is written without waste of words in an easy and explanatory style. We fully agree with Dr. Morawitz when he states—"It must be emphasized that the methods of blood examination which are really essential for the practitioner are no more difficult or time-consuming than many of the other routine examinations, such as exploratory needling, estimation of blood pressure, examination of urine, &c. The absolutely essential apparatus is small in amount . . ." although we would not agree to use a broken pen-nib to serve the purpose of a needle to prick the finger. In a few pages the simple methods of making films, &c., are described. In the chapters which follow, in addition to the blood picture, the clinical aspect, the differential diagnosis and the respective therapeutic agents employed in the several blood conditions are carefully considered. It is perhaps natural that Dr. Morawitz should associate pernicious anaemia with the name of Biermer, although the condition was described by Addison fully twenty years earlier (Lond. Med. Gaz., 1849, vol. xliii, p. 517); but this trifle should not be allowed to detract from the excellent way in which the subject is treated; other conditions which give a megalocytic blood picture are mentioned;
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while in the matter of treatment, in addition to the numerous proprietary preparations of liver extracts mentioned, the author is essentially practical in outlining the several ways in which fresh liver may be used. In the author's experience, Campolon appears to be the most effective in parenteral use to combat nervous complications or manifestations, while the citrate method of blood transfusion is considered best for simplicity and frequent use. Following on a consideration of acholuric jaundice, chlorosis, achlorhydric microcytic anaemia (Witts), post-haemorrhagic anaemia, aplastic anemia, other secondary anemias are described. The lesions of the leucocytic series are dealt with in an equally clear and succinct fashion—the leukæmias, Hodgkin's disease, lymphosarcoma and chloroma. The chapters on the hemorrhagic diathesis and splenomegaly are very well done, and in the latter the author carefully explains that splenic anaemia is not a disease sui generis. The final chapter—symptomatic blood changes—deals with alterations of the blood picture in several conditions; the leucocytosis of acute inflammatory lesions, e.g., appendicitis and lobar pneumonia; the leucopenia of typhus and typhoid; eosinophilia and monocytosis are also explained, while the Arneth count, general haemolytic conditions, paroxysmal hæmoglobinuria and the sedimentation rate are mentioned.

A product of the pen of an experienced physician, this book includes the advances made in hæmatology in the last decade. The apparent mist of difficulty which shrouds most methods hæmatological is dispelled, revealing the relative simplicity of methods practised. This is not a text-book for occasional reference, but a handbook for regular use. The chapters are on the average nine pages in length, and can be read easily during short intervals.

Dr. Piney is to be congratulated on the excellence of his translation of Dr. Morawitz' book, which should be as popular in this country as it has proved to be on the Continent, where the second edition has been translated into Spanish and Russian.

Paralysis in Children. By R. G. Gordon, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Ed., and M. Forrester Brown, M.D., M.S.Lond. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1933. (15s. net.)

This book is in many ways unique, and fulfils a definite purpose in bringing together for discussion the types of paralysis seen in childhood. After a general survey in which the physiology of movement, the incidence of paralysis, and the diagnostic significance of the physical signs are considered, the various diseases in which paralysis occurs are considered separately. The
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few lines devoted to such rare conditions as myotonia congenita, periodic paralysis, and hysterical paralysis will, however, be found quite inadequate, except to remind the reader that such conditions occur in children. Chorea, although the authors admit it is not strictly a paralysis, is included in this section and considered as an encephalitis. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but in chorea the physician is not so much concerned with the encephalitis, which will clear up, as the associated problem of the rheumatic infection. Exception may be taken to the statements that Sydenham's chorea usually comes on about the period of puberty and that such children are liable to consequent delinquency. Part III is devoted to treatment, and here re-education of voluntary muscle is given in considerable detail. Massage is looked upon as one of the most valuable methods of restoring function in a case of flaccid paralysis, and the authors stress the fact that in the spastic conditions associated with lesions of the pyramidal tract it is definitely contraindicated. Electricity, they believe, plays a very minor part. In conclusion, there are sections on the use of splints and certain operative procedures. The book is well illustrated, and it can be confidently recommended to anyone confronted with the problem of diagnosis and treatment of the various types of paralysis affecting children.

A Short History of Dentistry. By LILIAN LINDSAY, L.D.S. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1933. (3s. 6d. net.)

An outline of the story of dentistry from 3000 B.C. to the present day suggests an amount of research that can be appreciated only by those who have given particular attention to history. Much credit is due, therefore, to Mrs. Lindsay for giving us, in 85 pages, a most interesting account of the growth of the theory and practice of dentistry, apparently without omitting a single development of any importance.

The Cure of Haemorrhoids, Varicose Veins and Ulceration, and Allied Conditions: By Modern Methods of Injection and Bandaging. By STUART MCAUSLAND, B.A., M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1933. (3s. 6d. net.)

Numerous books have been published in recent years on the subject of the title of this small volume, but not all of them have the merits of this one. It is as detailed as necessary; it
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is clearly written, the technique described is easily followed, it furnishes photographic illustrations of methods and results, and it is very cheap. The author has had ample experience and gives a clear and simple account of his subject, not forgetting to deal fully with the subsequent necessary after-care. Altogether it is a very useful book for instructing those desirous of being proficient in such methods of treatment.

An Outline of Surgery for Nurses. By D. W. Daniels, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1933. (2s. 6d. net.)

In such a work as this an author is handicapped by a necessary brevity which may lead to misconceptions on the part of a reader who can aim at only the most superficial knowledge of surgery. Mr. Daniels, however, has avoided most of the pitfalls, and, on the whole, gives a fairly safe and clear account of the elements of the subject.

A Short History of Surgery. By Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1933. (3s. 6d. net.)

Sir D'Arcy Power traces the development of surgery forward from the days of ancient Egypt, and, as might be expected, finds in the early days more material on the Continent and in the East than in Britain. He reaches the fourteenth century before he can work from English records, but after that our country makes a show of which we need never be ashamed. The author does not confine himself purely to surgeons, but deals in equally interesting fashion with hospitals, laboratory work, anaesthetics and nursing, and altogether the book is so gripping that its brevity proves a disappointment. We have nothing but praise for Sir D'Arcy Power's pleasant little essay, and we are quite sure that it is only by a slip of the pen that Mrs. Porter and W. E. Henley are placed in Glasgow and not in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Clinical Science, incorporating Heart. Edited by Thomas Lewis, M.D., F.R.S. Vol. I, No. 1. London: Shaw & Sons, Limited. 1933. (37s. 6d. per vol.)

The first number of "Heart" appeared twenty-four years ago for the publication of original work relating to the physiology and pathology of the cardiovascular system, and under its efficient and critical editorial staff a very high standard has been main-
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tained throughout. Started as a quarterly journal, the rate of publication has diminished during recent years, and it has thus been decided to widen its scope while continuing the same standard. The title had therefore to be altered, and the first number of the new series, in addition to papers relating to the circulation, contains articles on "The physiological activation of insulin," "Pain derived from the skin and the mechanism of its production," "Observations on the mechanism of headache produced by histamine," and "Chloride and urea excretion as a measure of the functional activity of healthy and diseased kidneys," which will sufficiently indicate the scope of the journal. The circulation should increase with the widening of its subject-matter.

Medicine for Dental Students. By Members of the Teaching Staff of King's College Hospital Medical and Dental Schools. Edited by H. A. Lucas. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1933. (7s. 6d. net.)

This small text-book has been written to meet the special needs of dental students. It embraces a large part of the field of medicine, but only so far as is deemed necessary to cover the new schedule in medicine for dental examinations. The contributors, eight in number, are members of the teaching staff of King's College Hospital Medical and Dental Schools, and all are engaged in active teaching of medical and dental students. The book is an admirable summary of the elements of medicine, and will undoubtedly serve its special purpose in the interests of dental students. Even the junior medical student will find it an excellent introduction to the study of clinical medicine.

Recent Progress in Medicine and Surgery, 1919-1933. By Various Authors. Edited by Sir John Collie, C.M.G., M.D., D.L., J.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1933. (16s. net.)

The promoters of this work have considered it worth while to record the progress made in certain departments of medicine and surgery between the years 1919 and 1933. Some twenty contributions have been made by specialists, and Sir John Collie, in addition to writing the article "Active Immunisation against Diphtheria," has acted as Editor of the volume. The articles are brief, even sketchy, and it is a little difficult to appreciate just what function is fulfilled by such a book, when we remember how well the market is supplied with excellent periodic reports of progress.
Simple Instructions for Diabetic Patients. By Dorothy C. Hare, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1933. (1s. net.)

This little book should be very helpful to diabetic patients. Brief and simple instructions are given on general hygiene, diet, insulin administration, and urine testing. These instructions, if carefully followed, will enable patients not only to take an intelligent interest in their malady, but also to understand the "golden rules" which must be observed in the treatment of the diabetic state.

NEW EDITIONS

Starling's Principles of Human Physiology. Sixth Edition. Edited and revised by C. Lovatt Evans, D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1933. (24s. net.)

The sixth edition of this standard work on physiology brings the book well abreast of modern developments. How much revision and addition have been necessary to produce this result will be apparent perhaps only to those who know the rate of appearance of new contributions to physiology. Several colleagues have assisted the Editor, but special mention must be made of Professor H. Hartridge for his revision of the chapters on the central nervous system and special senses. For the benefit of those who are not yet familiar with Starling's Principles it may be pointed out that, although there are several works which cater more pointedly for the pupil in the elementary stages, this book may be used with profit by both the beginner and the advanced student.

Combined Text-book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Students and Medical Practitioners. By J. M. Munro Kerr, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.Glasg., F.C.O.G.; J. Haig Ferguson, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S.Edin., F.R.C.P.Edin., F.C.O.G., F.R.S.Edin., James Young, D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.S.Edin., F.C.O.G.; James Hendry, M.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., F.R.F.P.S.Glasg., F.C.O.G. Second Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1933. (35s. net.)

It is now ten years since the first edition of this well-known text-book was published. During this period there have been many advances in what may be called the medical aspects of obstetrics and gynaecology, while on the manipulative and operative side many of the established surgical procedures have assumed new relative values. The production of a new edition
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has, therefore, entailed a considerable amount of revision of the text and the insertion of some completely new material. This has been done in such a way as to preserve the original plan of the book, but additional chapters have been incorporated—"Problems of Maternal Mortality," "The Infant in its First Month" (by Dr. Charles McNeil), and "Radiology" (by Dr. J. Duncan White). There are many new illustrations, including a series of skiagrams.

This text-book is moderately priced, considering the wide field which it covers and the lavish manner in which it is illustrated. It has the advantage over many other books of containing an account of both obstetrics and gynaecology, and the fact that it is the work of a group of recognized experts representing two important medical schools adds very much to its value. Students and practitioners will find it a reliable guide to the modern practice of obstetrics and gynaecology.

Rose and Carless' Manual of Surgery. By Cecil P. G. Wakeley, D.Sc.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng., F.R.S.Edin., and John B. Hunter, M.C., M.Chir.Cantab., F.R.C.S.Eng. Fourteenth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1933. (In one-volume or two-volume form; 30s. net for either form.)

There is little to be said of the fourteenth edition of a standard work beyond indicating the more important alterations that have been made on the previous issue. Some of these have involved complete rewriting of chapters, as in the case of thoracic surgery, where new developments have taken place so rapidly. Surgery of the kidney also has demanded detailed revision, and the newer methods of pyelography are fully explained. Böhler's principles of treatment of fractures have been incorporated. Apparently they stand high in the estimation of the authors. Surgical affections of the eye and of the female genital organs are brought right up to date, but it will be a consideration for the authors in the future whether they will not be wiser to throw responsibility for these entirely upon special treatises. Space forbids even mention of the numerous other improvements.

So good were the earlier editions that the labour expended in producing this new issue might easily pass without appreciation, but a good index of the thoroughness of the revisers' work is obtained by noting that there are no less than 300 new illustrations.

A quarter of a century ago a distinguished surgeon wrote of "Rose and Carless" as "that most comprehensive and clear of all text-books." The fourteenth edition fully maintains that reputation.