**Major Endocrine Disorders.** By S. Levy Simpson, M.A., M.D., Cantab., M.R.C.P., London. London: John Bale Medical Publications Limited, 1938. (10s. 6d. net.)

This is essentially a book for the physician who has little time to keep up with the rapid advance in endocrinology and who finds the usual volumes too large or too theoretical. It is extraordinary how much material has been put into this small book which could almost be described as pocket size.

The author has dealt with the major endocrine disorders both from the practical and theoretical points of view, and has given a remarkably clear picture of the present state of knowledge of the subject. Each syndrome is dealt with separately. No references are given, but the main points with regards to etiology are touched upon, especially where these may have bearing on treatment. The pituitary-adrenal-gonadal complex is dealt with more fully than the other conditions from the theoretical point of view, and although there is a tendency to repetition, the main points of this difficult syndrome are clearly discussed. The chapter on the gonads includes menstrual disorders and also contains useful information on the nomenclature and the origin of sex hormones used therapeutically. There is also an appendix at the end of the book which gives a list of the chief hormone preparations with their proprietary names and their strengths. Reference might have been made, however, to the different commercial preparations of thyroid and their different strengths.

This small book should prove very popular and will fill a definite gap in medical literature.

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**A Method of Anatomy, Descriptive and Deductive.** By J. C. Boileau Grant, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), Professor of Anatomy in the University of Toronto. London: Baillière. Tindall & Cox. 1937. (27s. net.)

The study of anatomy may be approached and engaged in by either of two very different methods—the systematic and the regional. The one consists in collecting facts and memorizing them: the other is by "correlating facts" or in other words regarding them "in their mutual relationships." The purpose of this book is to lead the student to study anatomy by the second of these methods. Each region studied
Reviews

is built up around its dominant or central feature, be it muscle, nerve, bone or "other palpable structure."

No matter which method be followed, we cannot get away from one feature common to both, viz., the amassing of and more or less memorizing almost innumerable facts in each system or region of the body. The choice between systematic and regional study is not an easy one. There is much to be said in favour of each. The regional method is in some respects the more likely to stimulate the interest of the student. Such an interest is, however, apt to be unintelligent unless the student has already acquired a general idea of the whence and whither of the various structures situated in or traversing the region under consideration.

The difficulty of assessing the teaching value of the method under review lies in the reviewer having necessarily to approach Professor Grant's volume from an angle very different from that of the freshman in anatomy. With a knowledge derived, in part at least, from the conventional systematic method the reviewer can in a way not possible to the junior student appreciate the good points made by the author. Those who favour the author's method will find in this volume a goodly feast, in many ways reminiscent of Holden's Illustrated Manual, so well known to past generations of students. Professor Grant has arranged the facts well, the manner of their presentation is lucid, and the text is admirably supplemented by numerous figures more or less diagrammatic, all clear and some of them distinctly ingenious. With the proviso that the student should have had a preliminary course (even although it be somewhat elementary) of systematic instruction, there can be no doubt that he will find the present work of great value to him. It will stimulate him, and help him to acquire and to retain an intelligent grasp of an admittedly difficult subject. The author is to be congratulated on the way in which he has performed his self-appointed task.

The clear printing, the pleasing type and the arrangement of the text in double columns all make for comfort in reading, the flexible but opaque paper eliminates unwieldiness in handling, and we foresee a popularity for the volume which is well deserved by the author and publishers alike.

Regain Your Figure. By Lieut.-Colonel J. K. McConnell, D.S.O., M.C., Member of C.S.M.M.G. London: Methuen & Co., Limited. 1938. (6s. net.)

We have read Regain Your Figure by Lieut.-Colonel J. K. McConnell with interest and agree with him that an unconscious tightening of
Reviews

the affected muscles is to be desired, but only when the patient is in a condition to appreciate to the full what this means. In many cases it is necessary to teach the patient a definite impression, before she is able to appreciate the correct muscular condition to be obtained. It is in his method of teaching the patient that we disagree with Lieut.-Colonel McConnell.

The exercises given are in many cases excellent, but we find the explanation of the procedure concerned in the production of normal movements more confusing than the description of an exercise for the same purpose would be.

We criticise the book not for its aims which are excellent, but because we feel that for teaching purposes, which is its object, it is confusing.

Practical Procedures (The Practitioner Handbooks Series). Edited by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Alan A. Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers), Ltd. 1938. (10s. 6d. net.)

The Editors are to be congratulated on this valuable addition to the series of “The Practitioner Handbooks.” It deals with, in a most adequate fashion, such measures and investigations as can be carried out by the general practitioner himself. To those who have not had the advantage of actually seeing such procedures, close study of this volume would give them much added confidence in employing them, as it contains definite figures, reagents, &c., correlated in an easily assimilable form by established masters in their own specialities. Plaster of Paris technique, the important technique for blood transfusion, blood pressure and its relation to Life Assurance, injection therapy and minor surgical treatments are among the subjects dealt with. This book could, with great advantage take a place in the shelves of the specialist, physician and surgeon, as a handy reference.

Introduction to Ophthalmology. By Peter C. Kronfield, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology, Peiping Union Medical College. Baltimore: Charles C. Thomas. 1938. ($3.50 net.).

In the preface to this admirable book on Ophthalmology the author states that he is endeavouring to formulate the principles underlying that portion of ophthalmology which is essential to the medical education of a student.

In it he deals with the anatomy, pathology and symptoms of ocular
Reviews

diseases—more especially with that which is described as medical ophthalmology. Details of method of diagnosis and the finer details of treatment have been omitted. The principles underlying treatment have been stressed.

In it there is much information that is not available in the ordinary text-book of diseases of the eye.

It would form the substance of a series of lectures to a class in ophthalmology in which the specific morphology, differential diagnosis and treatment of disease were dealt with at the clinical meetings of the class. The matter is up-to-date. There are sufficient illustrations and a good index, which contains definitions of some words and conditions not mentioned in the text.

It is doubtful if this is a text-book for the undergraduate, but for the practising ophthalmologist it forms an admirable and up-to-date review of the subject from a different viewpoint.

Text-book of Gastroscopy. By Norbert Henning, Fürth. Translated by Harold W. Rodgers, F.R.C.S. London: Oxford University Press. 1937. (7s. 6d. net).

It is said that Kussmaus is the father of gastroscopy for, over seventy years ago, he succeeded in passing a metal tube, with proximal illumination, down the esophagus of a sword swallower and viewed the cardia. Some twenty years later Mikulicz, using distal illumination, apparently observed peristalsis and a gastric carcinoma. For many years things moved slowly but since 1910 the gastroscope has been in constant use. Still later, 1922, Schindler described his instrument, and it is due to his work that we find ourselves in the position of being able to regard gastroscopy as a comparatively safe although not altogether simple procedure.

Originally, the instruments used were rigid but the painstaking efforts of G. Wolf, Schlinder and Henning culminated in the production of a flexible gastroscope. The last-named is the author of the small book which is the subject of our review.

All aspects of gastroscopy are described in a brief, yet extremely lucid manner. The earlier chapters are devoted to anatomy, physiology, historical aspects, types of instruments and the indications and contra-indications of gastroscopy. Then follow descriptions of technique, normal gastroscopic appearance and gastroscopic findings in diseases of the stomach. The final chapter is devoted to the value of gastroscopy in clinical diagnosis. We quote the author—“gastroscopy must not be used by itself in the diagnosis of any disease. It should
Reviews

rather be used as the final procedure in the clinical examination to confirm other investigations. It supplements radiology, the other important modern aid to gastric diagnosis, both having their own special advantages."

Mr. Harold W. Rodgers has presented an excellent translation and we acknowledge our indebtedness to him for the part he has played in bringing a most valuable book to our notice.

The book contains numerous instructive illustrations, is clearly printed and well bound. The price is most reasonable.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. LV. Edited by WALTER ESTELL LEE, M.D. J. B. Lippincott Company. 1937.

The fifty-eighth Meeting of the American Surgical Association was held at New York in June, 1937. We have now the opportunity of reviewing the Transactions published in book form—a most impressive volume. On this occasion many of the contributors have discussed malignant conditions (including investigation, diagnosis and treatment); some have presented papers on cardio-vascular surgery, whilst others deal with neurological lesions. Acute ileus and studies in the aetiology of appendicitis also claim attention.

Mental Nursing in Observation Wards. By I. M. SCLARE, L.R.C.P.S.Ed. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. (6s. net.)

Since mental nursing includes all other types of nursing, it is the most comprehensive of all nursing. It is, therefore, important to have a good guide for it. Dr. Sclare has succeeded in this task. His book is a lively exposition of the mental nurse's duties and of the varieties of cases met with in Observation wards. If it suffers from the enthusiasm that carries an inaccuracy and a lack of definition here and there in its energetic stride—at least no very serious harm will be done to the practical nurse looking for advice for her daily task. On page 78 McDougall's lead is adopted in calling the result of laboratory work in prevention and treatment of mental disorder nil. He quietly ignores Mott's work showing the nerve and endocrine tissue changes of schizophrenic dementia, as well as the brain tissue changes from preventable and treatable toxic diseases like influenza and malaria, which often clear up.

Then again, that clinical schizophrenia appears as a syndrome, some
Reviews

cases of which finally dement, while others often recover completely, is not clearly enough brought out. Disconnected and unexpanded statements like “the outlook in every case is most depressing” (page 117) and “there is always the remote possibility that the disorder may be simulated by a transitory toxic state” (page 119) are apt to confuse the uninitiated inquirer.

Even so, the book is recommended as a valuable guide to mental nursing, and it is written in a vivacious style, relieving a difficult subject of much of the sombre which it might easily be in print.

Organic Chemistry. By Frederick Prescott, M.Sc., Ph.D., A.I.C., and Dudley Ridge, M.Sc., A.I.C. London: University Tutorial Press Limited. 1938. (8s. 6d. net.)

In order to meet the needs of medical as well as science students, the authors have included a chapter on fermentation and enzyme action in this work, and devoted a considerable amount of space to the chemistry of substances of physiological and therapeutic importance. The subject matter covers a wide field and is well arranged. A concisely written introductory section dealing with general principles and the methods employed in determining formulæ is followed by a series of chapters on the aliphatic compounds. The preparation, properties and reactions of typical members of each group are clearly and systematically described. In these chapters liberal use is made of structural formulæ which, though involving wide spacing of the text and adding appreciably to the size of the book, greatly facilitates the study of the different groups. The carbocyclic compounds are similarly treated in the second part of the work, and here also particular attention is given to synthesis and the elucidation of structure. A carefully selected list of exercises, which the student will find of much service in reading for examinations is appended to each chapter. The illustrations are adequate and an extensive index is furnished. The book is very well produced and is a notable addition to the University Tutorial Series. It can be warmly recommended to all engaged in the study of organic chemistry, and especially to students of medicine.
NEW EDITIONS

Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology. Edited by John Glaister, M.D., D.Sc. Sixth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1938. (25s. net.)

Glaister's classical text-book has been recast by the present editor. While the original concept of the work as an organ of instruction for the medical student has been preserved, the alterations, additions and omissions, which were considered to be essential, in order to bring the book up-to-date, have undoubtedly rendered this edition of considerably greater general utility than the previous one, not only as a guide for the medical student, but also as a handbook for the general practitioner, and as a work of reference for the pathologist confronted with medico-legal problems.

The principal omissions comprise obsolete Acts of Parliament and case-histories whose only claim for inclusion in a work of this nature rests on their having established a precedent or in their purely historical interest. While as antiquarians, we regret the absence of records of many famous crimes of bygone years, we welcome, as advocates of progressive thought, the inclusion of records of crimes that have been committed within the present decade. The omissions have been amply replaced.

For the medical student, this edition contains all that is essential—and more, for an "ex libris" knowledge of the Law in its relationship to medical problems. For the general practitioner, the advice given in respect of the presentation of medical evidence in Courts of Law is of extreme value, and, if followed, will prevent many compromising situations in the witness-box, and will furthermore encourage the friendly spirit of mutual understanding between the Medical Witness, the Counsel for the Prosecution, and the Counsel for the Defence, and thus, in the interests of Justice, will further their one common objective—that of establishing the Truth, the Whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

The chapter on the identity of the dead has been largely re-written and expanded, and many new methods of identification have been incorporated, including the super-imposition of photographs of mortal remains with photographs of the missing individual taken during life, and the establishment of the identity of maggots found on the corpse, as utilized in the Ruxton Case.

The ensuing chapter on Death in its Medico-Legal Relationships has
Reviews

been greatly improved by the present re-arrangement. By a happy thought, the facsimilies of the Certificates of the Cause of Death required by the Registrars in England and in Scotland, have been included.

The chapters on the Medico-Legal Forms of Death are comprehensive and profusely illustrated, with grim thoroughness. We suggest that these might fittingly be included in a separate Section, and that a similar procedure might be adopted in respect of other subjects to which several chapters are at present allotted.

There is an up-to-date chapter on the examination of Blood, Hairs and Fibres, including the medico-legal applications of blood-grouping and the grouping of seminal fluid and other bodily secretions. A notable feature of the book is the wealth of details in respect of technical methods, not only in this, but in other sections of the book. The use of ultra-violet light in detecting seminal stains, &c., is described, but there is no mention of the potential applications of infra-red photography.

The medico-legal relations of the sexual functions have been very fully considered, but the quality of the newly-added photographs in this section of the book, does not reach the usual high standard of those in other parts, though, nevertheless, they surpass the photographs formerly included, in that fully they demonstrate the points intended.

There is a useful chapter on the differential diagnosis of states of insensibility, and the concluding chapter in this section, on Lunacy, in its medico-legal aspects, is most comprehensive.

Extensive alterations have been necessary in order to bring Section II., Toxicology up-to-date. The Laws regulating the Sale of Poisons, the Poisons Lists, and the Schedules of Poisons are given “in extenso,” and the Classification of Poisons has received new treatment. An admirable innovation is the inclusion of two beautifully executed coloured plates illustrating poisonous berries and seeds. Several additional and more recent technical methods are described, notably in connexion with Arsenic and Antimony, and full information is given concerning the toxicology of recent organic preparations, including Pyramidon, Atophan and the Prontosil Sulphonamide Derivatives; Mandelic Acid is not mentioned. The chapter on food-poisoning has been re-written and now embraces the poisonous fungi. Finally, there is a short but comprehensive outline, by Dr. G. Pillans, Medical Instructor in A.R.P. for the West of Scotland, of the composition and properties of War-Gases, and of the symptomatology and treatment of gas-poisoning.

This edition is presented in an attractive style; the paper is good
Reviews

and the letterpress clear. The new index facilitates ready reference. The editor and publishers are to be heartily congratulated on the production of this excellent edition of an accepted standard work.

Emergency Surgery. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S. Eng. Third Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1938. (50s. net.)
The popularity of this book is apparent by the appearance of a third edition within two years of the second edition.

In the third edition the text has been revised, several sections re-written, and a chapter on Embolectomy has been added. The book is well written, and the paper and print is most pleasing. The text is liberally illustrated, many of the illustrations being in colour; there are 816 illustrations in all.

This book is now regarded as a standard work on emergency surgery, and it undoubtedly fulfils the desire of the writer who states in his preface that his aim has been to provide a manual to which the surgical practitioner can turn when he himself has to deal with an acute emergency. When to operate, when not to operate, and how to operate under emergency conditions is its theme.

We can thoroughly recommend this book to all practitioners engaged in the practice of surgery.

The Abdominal Surgery of Children. By Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward, K.C.V.O., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: Oxford University Press. 1937. (25s. net.)

Barrington-Ward’s Abdominal Surgery of Children is well-known. All the important acute and chronic abdominal illnesses in children of both sexes are fully described; their diagnosis and treatment receive adequate consideration.

An up-to-date table of references is given at the end of each chapter. We can highly commend this book.

Diseases of Women by Ten Teachers. Edited by Clifford White, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Sir Comyns Berkeley, M.D., F.R.C.P. F.C.O.G., and Frank Cook, F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G. Sixth Edition. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1938. (18s. net.)
The appearance of the sixth edition of this excellent textbook, first published in 1919, is a tribute to its popularity. There have been changes on the Editorial Board—Mr. Clifford White has succeeded Sir Comyns Berkeley as Director, and Mr. Frank Cook replaces Dr. Fairbairn on the Editorial staff. With succeeding editions the
Reviews

occasional discrepancies in various parts of the book noted in earlier editions appear to have been completely harmonized. The section on the Physiology and Disorders of Menstruation has been completely re-written, and in this section there is a very admirable statement of our present knowledge of the nature and action of the various hormones affecting the reproductive organs. There is another very useful new chapter on Methods of Contraception, in which there is a simple but adequate description of the methods employed. In the section dealing with Cancer of the Cervix, there is perhaps a little over-emphasis for such a textbook on the difficulties of Radium and X-ray therapy. There are several new illustrations, with some excellent microphotographs.

This textbook can be thoroughly recommended to medical practitioners and students as a reliable guide to modern British gynaecological practice.

Refraction of the Eye. By CHARLES GOULDEN, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S.
Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1938. (12s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Goulden has made no fundamental change in the form of this useful volume. The text has been revised and a few minor errors corrected. The illustrations are, as in the first edition, clear and illuminating. Additions to the text include reference to Fincham's recent experiments on the behaviour of the lens and its capsule during accommodation, and Mr. Goulden acknowledges the brilliance of these experiments in his preface. In dealing with ophthalmoscopy the author has discarded the description of some of the older methods and makes reference to modern technique. By such changes Mr. Goulden has sought to bring up-to-date a book which has already found a place on the shelves of most candidates for the Diplomas in Ophthalmology and which needs no introduction to ophthalmic surgeons. This second edition should be welcomed as a thoroughly revised and modern substitute for its predecessor.

Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By WILFRED SHELDON, M.D., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. (21s. net.)

The appearance of a second edition within eighteen months of its predecessor tells its own story of the demand for just such a work as this. The author is to be congratulated on his production of a reliable survey of the diseases of infancy and childhood in which the commoner
Reviews

diseases are given detailed consideration and the rarities passed over briefly, the whole being compressed into a volume of moderate size.

The treatment advised tends to be of the time-honoured variety. For example, the use of borax and glycerine for thrush might well have been omitted in favour of the more recent application of dyes, and the treatment of tetany by intramuscular calcium gluconate would have been an improvement on oral calcium chloride. Similarly, prontosil and its allies do not figure largely in the text although there can be no doubt of their efficacy in several diseases. A wholly admirable feature of the book is the inclusion, either in the text or in footnotes, of details for the prescription of drugs advised and for preparation of foods, &c. This is usually considered beneath the notice of a text-book but should be an additional inducement to the practitioner and student to invest in Dr. Sheldon's work.

The print is large and clear, the illustrations and x-ray plates abundant and helpful, and the index very adequate.

A book to be highly commended.

Forensic Medicine: By SYDNEY SMITH, M.D., F.R.C.P. Sixth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1938. (24s.)

The book is full in text and very complete in description, and an up-to-date text-book on the subject. The arrangement is good and proceeds into the subject in a logical and commonsense way from court procedure forward through signs of death, wounds, &c., to poisons and their effects. The views as expressed are not too dogmatic but are well reasoned out and dictated by an experience, which gives character and reliability to the conclusions come to, as they are based on personal knowledge and observations. The sections on post-mortem examinations, identification, wounds, bullet and otherwise, show this characteristic of observation and attention to detail, which give them value to the student desirous of knowing the subject. That on identification is very helpful including as it does a discussion on the reliability of fingerprints, when known, as a means thereof. The noxious gases have been added to by the inclusion of the gases of warfare, which should be of relative importance regarding the identification of them. The chapters on abortion, pregnancy, &c., give a good clear exposition of these as affecting forensic medicine. In regard to the dangerous drugs, &c., this is full enough and sufficient for general purposes, emphasizing the principal parts and points to be remembered. The section on toxicology is generally full in its description and well arranged, giving both signs and treatment of
Reviews

poisoning and reasons therefor. The appendices are useful, giving as they do, the analytical procedure in poisoning, preservation of specimens, and other information. The book is an excellent exposition of the subject on its various divisions, well illustrated and readable; in fact, made most interesting.

A Text-book of Medicine for Nurses. By E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. London: Oxford University Press. 1938. (20s. net.)

This excellent text-book has now reached a third edition in a little less than seven years. During this time it has become established as a work of great merit, and one which is valued very highly by the nursing profession, and teachers of medicine. It is a manual which serves not only as a text-book but also as a reference book in medicine, and should be available in every hospital library for nurses, tutors and lecturers in medicine.

The present edition is a careful revision and the book has been brought thoroughly up-to-date. Many sections are partly re-written. There are many minor alterations and additions. The book as a whole is greatly improved and made more interesting by the large number of new illustrations.

A revision of this magnitude is a difficult task. The author is to be congratulated on achieving such an excellent result and at the same time maintaining the free style which makes the text impressive and easy to read.

The different sections are well balanced and the subjects are all treated adequately. There is no need for adverse criticism and the book is recommended to all interested in the medical training of nurses and to the nurses themselves.

The Diagnosis of Nervous Disease. By Sir James Purves-Stewart, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P. Eighth Edition. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1937. (36s. net.)

We welcome the eighth edition of a book which for over thirty years has occupied an important place amongst those devoted to disease of the central nervous system. As may be seen from the title, this volume considers diagnostic problems. It fulfils its object in admirable fashion.

Considerable portions of the text have been re-written and many new illustrations have been added.

We encounter the list of "Errata" on page vii. with regret.