REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

Clinical Atlas of Blood Diseases. By A. Piney, M.D., M.R.C.P., and Stanley Wyard, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1930. (12s. 6d.)

The title of this little book accurately describes its contents. It differs from many of the existing works on hematology in several features. The foundation is a series of admirable coloured reproductions of blood films in which the types of cell depicted are clearly indicated in the legend. Accompanying each plate there is a brief summary of the disease or syndrome under consideration. This is done in such a way as to afford a convenient reference-book for clinical use. The book will appeal to students who are making their first acquaintance with the subject as well as to practitioners who seek to correlate their own knowledge of haematology with the use of the newer terminology which is apt to be confusing to those unfamiliar with it. The authors and their artist, Mr. J. R. Ford, are to be congratulated on the excellence of the plates. By their aid it should be possible for even a beginner to identify any of the cells which he is likely to encounter in the examination of human blood-films.

Some Aspects of the Cancer Problem. Edited by W. Blair Bell, B.S., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1930. (63s. net.)

We have here Mr. Blair Bell's confession of faith, and, at the same time, a complete report of the work done during the past quarter of a century by the Liverpool Medical Research Organisation, under his directorship. The Organisation is one of the best examples of team work existing in this country, as Mr. Blair Bell has enlisted the help of all the departments at Liverpool University whose activities have any bearing on the work in hand, viz., the application of lead as a curative agent in malignant disease. The book consists of a collection of all the articles which have been issued by members of the Organisation. These have been brought up to date and the whole correlated by Mr. Blair Bell. The structure of the book roughly
falls into four sections—(1) Mr. Blair Bell's working hypothesis; (2) the action of lead on growth and dividing cells; (3) the various preparations of lead used, up till now, in the treatment of cancer; (4) the technique and results of the treatment. The working hypothesis may be stated simply:—Lead has a destructive action on all cells, but in non-lethal doses has a greater effect on primitive and actively dividing cells than on fixed tissues. It should, therefore, be possible to procure a preparation of lead which, while leaving the fixed body cells unharmed, will destroy or arrest the growth of malignant cells. To this end the activities of the Organisation are, in the main, directed. The action of lead on plant and animal growth has been exhaustively studied in hyacinths, young plaice, frogs, and spawn. Its effect on chorionic epithelium, which originally inspired the author, has been experimentally demonstrated in the rabbit. The biochemical department have several excellent papers on glycolysis and the lecithin cholesterin ratio of malignant tissues, and the findings of Shaw Mackenzie on the reduced action of the blood serum in augmenting the fat-splitting action of the pancreas in cancer patients have been confirmed. The lipolytic augmentation is found to be increased towards normal, after treatment with lead. Full particulars are given by the Chemistry Department concerning the various combinations of lead used in treating cancer patients, with detailed instructions on the method of preparation. Lastly, the clinicians give a review of the cases treated, the results of treatment, and the dangers likely to be incurred.

Criticism of the book is difficult. To those desiring to give a reasonable trial to lead in the treatment of malignant disease, it is invaluable; to all interested in the cancer problem, it is stimulating and original. Mr. Blair Bell is inclined to be so dogmatic over his working hypothesis that he will irritate readers who are equally dogmatic over their own particular dogmas. The reiterated assertion that chorionic epithelium is "malignant," without a concise statement as to the meaning of the word in this connexion, tends to fog the simple clarity of the working hypothesis. Apart from this, the frankness of the book is refreshing. Mr. Blair Bell does not claim that he has found in lead a complete cure for malignant disease—indeed, his review of results shows that, while in a number of cases he has had a hopeful degree of success, partial or complete, his failures greatly outnumber his cures. What he does claim is that the partial success is an indication that he is on the right lines, and that the failures are due to inability, so far, to find a preparation of lead which will be attractive to malignant cells under all conditions, while leaving the fixed tissue cells unharmed. All the activities of the Organisation are directed towards this discovery. He rightly puts forward a plea for fair criticism, and depreciates
ill-considered judgments, based on prejudice and small numbers of cases imperfectly treated. There is little doubt that our present methods of treatment—operative, radium, and x-rays—are in all probability makeshifts, and that specific cure will be on the lines of some substance injected into the blood stream, which has a selective action on malignant cells. It is Mr. Blair Bell’s faith that this particular substance will be a preparation of lead. Whether this is justifiable or not time alone can show, but no one can read the volume without realizing what an extremely efficient effort the Liverpool Organisation is making, and without wishing them success in it. The book is well worth reading by all interested in malignant disease, and the proceeds go to the depleted funds of the Organisation.

The Principles of Bacteriology and Immunity. By W. W. C. Topley, M.A., M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., and G. S. Wilson, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1929. (Two Vols., 50s. net.)

This comprehensive work is offered to "students of medicine and biology who wish to make a serious study of bacteriology and its application to the problems of infection and resistance." The subject-matter is arranged in four parts, two constituting each volume. Part I gives a detailed summary of the morphological and physiological characteristics of bacteria and a general review of immunity reactions. In addition, it includes a historical résumé and chapters on classification, disinfection, bacterial variation, and the bacteriophage. The scheme of classification advocated in the final report of the first Committee of the Society of American Bacteriologists is adopted, with minor modifications, for the systematic description of bacteria which forms Part II. In Part III the various factors concerned in the mechanisms of infection and resistance are considered in turn and an interesting account is given of observations on herd infection and herd immunity. Part IV is devoted to consideration of diseases of bacterial origin, the general plan being similar to that of text-books of medical bacteriology, and it concludes with chapters on the normal flora of the human body, and the bacteriology of soil, water, sewage, and food. In the production of this work the authors have sought to provide a text-book suited to the special needs of candidates for the Diploma in Bacteriology of the University of London, but it is likely to have a much wider appeal on account of the prominence which it gives to the scrappiness of present-day knowledge in almost all fields of bacteriological and immunological research. The chapters dealing with the results of recent work
are noteworthy for their lucid treatment of several difficult problems and, although the authors' personal bias is sometimes in evidence, controversial matter is presented with commendable fairness. To the research worker this latest addition to bacteriological literature can be recommended as a helpful guide which will repay study and which should prove an incentive to fresh effort.

The T.B. Patient's Guide. By Frederick J. C. Blackmore, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1930. (1s. 6d. net.)

This little book, written by an experienced tuberculosis physician, is intended to assist tuberculous patients to understand the modern treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. It describes in simple language the nature of the disease and how it begins, and explains, in sufficient detail for the average patient, the principles underlying the modern treatment of tuberculosis. The brief descriptions of sanatorium life and the methods of carrying out home treatment will be helpful and encouraging to tuberculous patients, and will no doubt enable them to co-operate intelligently with their medical advisers in carrying out the process of cure.

Radium and Cancer. (Curietherapy.) By Duncan C. L. Fitzwilliams, C.M.G., M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1930. (12s. 6d. net.)

In spite of its title, this volume by Mr. Fitzwilliams does not purport to be a comprehensive treatise, but rather a guide based on personal experience for those who have a somewhat limited supply of radium at their disposal. In the main, the methods described follow the recognized lines, and the author must be congratulated on the initiative and industry which he has displayed. A few parts give the impression of having been written rather rapidly, as, for example, where there is confusion between catgut and silkworm-gut in describing the anchorage of radium needles in the tongue. There are also a number of points which may not meet with general agreement. Probably not many will endorse the view that the supraclavicular region can safely be neglected in the radium treatment of mammary carcinoma, or feel ready to needle low rectal growths through the mucous membrane of the bowel, although this procedure has its advocates. Exception may also be taken to a number of sketches showing radium needles in situ, but with the eyes left pro-
jecting: this may be for diagrammatic reasons, but if so, the fact is not indicated. On the other hand, we are glad to see that Mr. Fitzwilliams gives warning of the radio-resistant state which may attend repeated and inadequate treatments and emphasizes the necessity for timely attention to the cervical glands in cases of oral carcinoma where the dramatic disappearance of the primary focus may tend to overshadow the picture. An excellent section dealing with the cervix uteri is contributed by Mr. Malcolm Donaldson, who epitomizes the chief methods employed in this region, including the Paris and Stockholm techniques. As a record of personal experience the book is of distinct value, which is enhanced by the many good illustrations and a number of references to the literature.

**Pernicious Anaemia.** By Leybourne Stanley Patrick Davidson, B.A.Camb., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., and George Lovell Gulland, C.M.G, LL.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.E. London: Henry Kimpton. 1930. (25s. net.)

This monograph on pernicious anaemia deals with its subject in a very comprehensive manner. Beginning with a brief critical review of the literature, the authors go on to describe the various clinical and experimental aspects of the subject. The section which will perhaps be read with most interest is that in which the etiology of pernicious anaemia is discussed. In his previous writings, Professor Gulland has adhered to the view that the primary factor of pernicious anaemia is defective blood formation, while excessive blood destruction is only a secondary factor. In the present volume the writers express the opinion that Cohnheim’s belief that abnormal blood formation is the primary factor in the disease appears to be proved, but that William Hunter’s hypothesis, in so far as it teaches that hemolysis in the portal circulation is the essential feature of pernicious anaemia, must be discredited. They accept, however, Hunter’s theory that the intestinal tract is of prime importance “whether we believe that the error lies in faulty elaboration or assimilation or in toxin production or absorption.” We are left in doubt as to which of these alternatives they favour. It is essential, they say, that the constitutional factor be accepted as existing in patients suffering from pernicious anaemia, but the nature of this constitutional factor is barely suggested. This hereditary weakness, they continue, may exist in any system, but its manifestation in the stomach, liver, bone marrow, and central nervous system requires special emphasis. The inherent weakness may vary in degree in the different systems. The onset and severity of the lesions
produced in the different systems are directly related to the degree of constitutional weakness present. It is in the exposition of this part of their discussion of the etiology of pernicious anaemia that we find ourselves left rather in the air by the authors. Their conception of a triangle "in which the angles at the base represent Cohnheim's and Hunter's hypothesis [sic ? "hypotheses"] of the etiology of pernicious anaemia, while the third angle represents the recent knowledge derived from the therapeutic value of liver extract " appears to us more ingenious than conclusive. It is made scarcely more explicit by their remark that "the liver, with its contained 'blood hormone,' is the connecting link between the bone marrow and the intestinal tract." In the preface, the authors express the belief that "a point has now been reached in our knowledge of the disease and its treatment at which a review of the whole position is not only warranted but desirable." While agreeing with this up to a point, we would suggest that it is still too early to interpret the full significance of the "blood hormone" contained in the liver and other organs, or to attempt to explain the etiology of pernicious anaemia in a conclusive manner. The sections dealing with symptomatology, blood changes and treatment contain much that is admirable, but the plates which illustrate the chapter on haematological changes are very uneven in quality. The chapter on the bacteriology of pernicious anemia is reprinted from the Journal in which it was published originally. It contains a great deal of technical detail which seems unnecessary in a monograph of this kind. Any reader who is likely to require this information will have it readily accessible in the original paper.

Hookworm Disease. By Asa C. Chandler, M.Sc., Ph.D. London: Macmillan & Co., Limited. 1929. (21s. net.)

The control of hookworm disease has made immense strides since it was first seriously attempted on a large scale by the International Health Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1913. This Commission (later "Board") has carried out, or is carrying out, hookworm campaigns in every corner of the world. Hookworm infestations are engaging the attention of the medical profession and of governments in every tropical and sub-tropical country in the world. Popular interest in the affected countries has been aroused, and large sums of money are being spent on the study and control of the disease. The appearance of this volume, therefore, will be of great help and interest to those who wish to study this widespread disease. The author has spent over three years in India doing full-time research on
hookworm problems, and this book embodies the results of his personal observations and experiments in all of the phases of the subject, as well as a critical analysis of the methods, opinions, and conclusions of others. Separate chapters are devoted to history, geographical distribution, zoological relationships, and anatomy of the adult worms, the life-cycle and mode of infection, epidemiology, pathology, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and control, and there is an instructive appendix on technical methods. A special feature of the book is an extensive bibliography which, according to the author, includes reference to all the important contributions made within the past ten years. As an exhaustive study of the whole subject of hookworm disease this volume can be confidently recommended.

NEW EDITIONS.

The Diabetic Life. By R. D. Lawrence, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond. Fifth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1930. (8s. 6d.)

The fifth edition of this very useful manual contains a few changes. There are many additional special recipes for diabetics. From the author’s analyses it would appear that the available carbohydrate of many vegetables and fruits has been overestimated, and the new values have been incorporated in this edition. The book can be confidently recommended.

A Textbook of Psychiatry for Students and Practitioners. By D. K. Henderson, M.D.Edin., F.R.F.P.S.Glasg., and R. D. Gillespie, M.D.Glasg., D.P.M.Lond. Second Edition. London: Humphrey Milford. 1930. (18s. net.)

The writers are to be congratulated upon the production of the second edition, which, while it does not materially differ from the first edition, has been emended and kept thoroughly up to date. As a textbook for students and practitioners it will prove most comprehensive, and the interest of the reader will be sustained throughout by the frequent descriptions of cases, which descriptions are a feature of the volume, and are more welcome than the usual retailing of the symptoms of the various psychoses. A chapter is devoted to the vexed subject of classification, and a suggested scheme is submitted which embodies a simplicity that is most desirable. The student will find that the chapters
dealing with symptomatology and psychopathology are treated with admirable clarity; indeed, it would be difficult to discover in kindred works a better exposition of the various clinical syndromes. It is interesting to note that the authors have decided that bromide is still the sheet-anchor in the treatment of epilepsy, and that luminal is only an accessory. The value of occupational therapy is prominently considered. The volume can be unreservedly recommended for the purposes for which it is intended.

A Synopsis of Hygiene. By W. Wilson Jameson, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.P., and G. S. Parkinson, D.S.O., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. Third Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1930. (18s.)

This third edition of the Synopsis of Hygiene by Professor Jameson fully maintains the high standard of the second. The article on the accessory food substances is brought up to date, and other new matter includes the findings of the Committee on Vaccination, together with the Vaccination Order of 1929, which substitutes the method of linear incision for the time-honoured scarification. The Food and Drugs Adulteration Act of 1928 is well set forth. The Local Government Act of 1929 is adequately considered, and further modifications rendered necessary by recent progress are suitably introduced. Owing to the death of Mr. F. T. Marchant, Professor Jameson’s collaborator on this occasion is Lieut.-Colonel Parkinson. The Synopsis of Hygiene, third edition, is cordially recommended to those studying for the Diploma in Public Health, for whom it is specially intended.

A Shorter Surgery. Second Edition. A Practical Manual for Senior Students. By R. J. McNeill Love, M.B., M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1930. (16s. net.)

As stated in the preface, this volume "is an attempt to condense and crystallize the more important principles of surgery for the benefit chiefly of the student." We consider that the author has achieved his goal. The book can be warmly recommended to students preparing for examinations—it is not meant to take the place of a text-book, but should be used in conjunction with it. Practitioners or teachers taking a rapid survey of the essential points in any surgical subject will find it useful. The printing and illustrations leave nothing to be desired.