THE BOOK WORLD OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE.

A Manual of Surgery for Students and Practitioners. By William Rose, M.B., B.S., Lond., F.R.C.S., and Albert Carless, M.S., Lond., F.R.C.S. Second edition. (London : Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1899. Price 21s. net.)

We have carefully looked through this handsome volume, and have nothing but praise for its contents. The changes in this edition are not very numerous, but they are all improvements, and as the book now stands it may be highly recommended as an admirable exposition of the present position of surgery and as a manual highly suited for the use of the student. Perhaps, indeed, it is more suited to the student than to the practitioner, but, in any attempt to compress the facts of surgery within the compass of a single volume, that seems inevitable. The fact is the practitioner does not want a manual but a book of reference, and if this is to be at all complete it must be a large one, whereas the student is always being taught in the wards, and what he wants is not so much a complete treatise as a handbook which shall put in order the wider knowledge which he is picking up from many sources while working in the hospital and the lecture theatre. It is method, careful condensation, and proper wording that the student wants, so as to enable him to focus his knowledge, and all this he gets in plenty in the book before us. There is no doubt that a very large proportion of its pages is devoted to operative surgery. But then surgery nowadays is operative if it is anything, and thus the book does but reflect the present position of the subject. It seems a pity that some of the purely surgical work which now falls, too often as we think, into the hands of the gynecologist should not have been included in such a volume as this. We can see no excuse for the exclusion of ovariotomy and hysterectomy, and for these being no mention of operation for the treatment of intra-peritoneal hemorrhage from ruptured ectopic gestation in a manual of surgery. All such proceedings are purely surgical, and, moreover, they are the sort of surgery from which no surgeon can wholly escape, however much he may regard gynecology as a specialty outside his province. No doubt, as is stated in the preface, these things have been left out for want of room. But it is a pity, for we can hardly admit, as the preface suggests, that such subjects do not "encroach on the domains of general surgery," and this view of the subject of operation would be better for the purposes of the student than the work before us. It is not too large; it is well illustrated, for although some of the pictures are hardly to be commended as works of art they generally serve well to demonstrate the points at issue; and the teaching, while thoroughly up to date, is sound and solid, and such as is likely to be acceptable to examiners.

Lord Lister and Surgery. By Robert Turner, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.Edin. (London : H. Glaisher. 1899. Small 8vo. 28 pp. Is.)

As an article in a lay monthly magazine these 28 pages would have been valuable; they present writing which is concise, simple, and not too technical, and a general history of the advance of modern surgery which is correct, and, within its limits, judicial. But we ask, cui bono? The younger man does not need such a summary as this; the older man—if he is attempting to improve his surgical technique still—can learn nothing of new technique from it. The anecdote on page 14 affords an excellent text which the author might have pressed to a practical conclusion. If every country surgeon who has to take care of his own instruments made a rule of boiling once a week in a soda solution every instrument which he has used in the previous seven days, he would save an infinite number of suppurating wounds and an infinity of labour to himself.

London University Guide and University Correspondence College Calendar, 1899—1900. (London : University Correspondence College Press. Small 8vo. 64 pp.)

The University Correspondence College is now a well-established institution, doing excellent work in preparing candidates for the London University examinations. Naturally, this method of teaching is confined to examinations in arts and mathematics, but, by arrangement with the University Tutorial College, the necessary laboratory accommodation for such examinations as the Pre. Sci. and Inter-Sci., or even the B.S.c., is provided. The examination results of the Correspondence College maintain the high level they reached some years ago. This guide is full of valuable hints as to books suitable for the various London University examinations, and will altogether be found a most useful manual for any student entering on the curriculum of the University.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Mr. B. G. Jenkins, F.R.A.S., has sent us a copy of his "Weather Chart for 1900." (London : R. Morgan, 65, Weston Street, Upper Norwood). This gives in a series of curves the "Telluric Curve," the "Forecast Barometer," and the "Forecast Thermometer" throughout the year. In addition to this a general outline is given of the probable weather in each month. The chart is published in two sizes; the large one, 25 in. by 10 in., price 6d., and the small one, 12 in. by 8 in., price Id. Each of them post free for ½d. extra. If they are to be depended on it is clear that the purchaser gets his money's worth. Forecasting of the weather is always a matter of interest, and in order that we may judge Mr. Jenkins by his works we append his forecast for January, 1900.

"Probable weather, January: Unsettled round 4th, high barometer with fog round 8th, and for ten days round 21st. Stormy with gales and snow round 13th and at the close. Temperature: Very cold on 4th, and for ten days round 18th. Mild about 9th and 26th. Cold with snow at the close. Rain: Below the average, chiefly about 5th, round 13th, and at the close. . . . Prevailing winds: S.W., S.E., N.E., souterly winds predominating." We may add that Mr. Jenkins seems to be affected with a sort of meteorological hypermetropia—he sees most distinctly at long ranges. There is a great deal of caution in his predictions for the earlier months. Things happen "about the 1st" or "round the 17th," but when we get further on we become more definite. In October we are told that there will be gales during three weeks, "probably with snow on the 20th." But that is nothing to the forecast for December, under which month we find the notes "Snow on the 7th and 16th," "Snow on 23rd." These long-range prophecies are, we must confess, a little trying to one's faith, even in Mr. Jenkins. Still a part of the real with the prophetic will not be without interest.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

BAILLIERE, TINDALL, AND COX.

"A Synopsis of the British Pharmacopoeia," by H. Whippled Gould and G. C. Moore, M.A., F.C.G. Fourth edition. J. B. Lippincott Co.

"Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz." by John Gray McKendrick, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.S., L. and E.

"The Private Nurse." by Jessie Holmes.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY UNION.

"The Healing of the Nations: A Treatise on Medical Missions." by J. B. Lippincott Co.

SIMPSON, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, AND CO.

"The Healing of the Nations: A Treatise on Medical Missions." by J. B. Lippincott Co.

"Common Sense Health Reform." by T. Thacker.

"System of Diseases of the Eye." Edited by William F. Norris, M.D., and Charles A. Oliver, M.D. Volume IV.

SAMUEL LOW, MARSTON, AND CO.

"Twentieth Century Practice of Modern Medical Science," edited by Thomas L. Stedman, M.D.