Intracranial Tumours. By Harvey Cushing. Pp. v+147, with 111 illustrations. London: Bailliére, Tindall & Cox. 1931. Price 26s. 6d.

This valuable monograph has emerged from a report which the author made to the International Neurological Congress in Berlin last year. All those who aspire to adopt surgery of the brain as their speciality have realised that the pace in this branch has been set for many years by Dr Harvey Cushing, and it must be the dream of every neuro-surgeon to emulate this great master. How high the standard set is at once revealed in the pages of the present volume, and the story which lies behind the achievements recorded will for long form a pattern which none but the most persevering can hope to emulate.

In a brief introduction the reader is fascinated by the author's modest account of his early experiences and the gradual unfolding of neurological knowledge which made possible the feats of the present day; a history of concentrated progress which is surely unsurpassed in any previous generation.

About a third of the book is devoted to a description of the glioma group, and here we find a forceful argument for considering this not as a single entity, but rather as a convenient name under which are collected the different tumour formations which are derived from neuroglia, the classification given being specially serviceable in estimating the prognosis.

The remaining chapters take up in turn the different intracranial tumours, and in each instance carefully chosen case-records support the general description which would otherwise tend to be too statistical. The numerous illustrations are mainly photographic, and by their aid the reader is given a vivid understanding of the problems that have been tackled, and also something of what is expected from those who are to follow.

The British Pharmacopoeia, 1932. Lond.: Constable & Co. Ltd. 1932.

Eighteen years have elapsed since the issue of the last Pharmacopoeia and it is therefore not surprising that the new edition contains many changes. Some of these are of a highly important character, but most are quite trivial. It should be kept in mind that the Pharmacopoeia is principally designed to set a uniform standard and guide for the preparation of medicines and is not intended to limit the free choice of drugs in any way. A large number of articles which appeared in previous editions have been omitted from the present. For the most part these are drugs of little importance. Some have been dropped
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because considered of insufficient medicinal value; others because they are redundant. For example, the number of astringents and purgatives has been reduced by selecting from each group those which appeared to be most valuable. The group of hypodermic injections has been omitted on the ground that it is better to prescribe the dose of the active material as such. Many of the formulae for compound drugs have been left out and only a few widely used combinations of this class have been retained. The wines of the older Pharmacopoeias no longer appear, the important ones being replaced by tinctures of similar strength. The old tinctures of iodine and the ammoniated tincture of quinine have been renamed "liquors," but remain of the same composition as formerly.

The old names of certain substances have been somewhat modified, but as the existing terms have been retained as synonyms no difficulty is likely to arise. Dover's Powder becomes Pulv. Ipecac. et Opii, Paregoric, Tinct. Opii. Camphorata and Blaud's pill, Pil. Fer. Carbonatis.

The new introductions are of considerable interest. In addition to the ordinary fresh infusions there is now a series of concentrated preparations which on dilution resemble the old infusions. Other substances which are included for the first time range from vaccine lymph to insulin and liver extract. Certain therapeutic agents such as antitoxins, sera, tuberculin and organic arsenicals which can only be standardised by biological methods have now been admitted to the Pharmacopoeia.

The new edition of the Pharmacopoeia marks a definite milestone in medical advance, and the higher standards it sets can only be of advantage to the profession.

A Short Practice of Surgery. By Hamilton Bailey and R. J. McNeill Love. Vol. i. Pp. viii + 530, with 269 illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. 1932. Price 20s.

The authors of this, the first of two volumes, are to be congratulated on producing an eminently readable treatise on certain sections of general and regional surgery, one that is bound to appeal to students as a supplement to the larger manuals. The subjects are dealt with mainly from the clinical standpoint and the majority of the illustrations, especially those in colour, are excellent. The chapters on genito-urinary surgery are particularly good and well illustrated, though here as elsewhere there is rather a tendency to overdo the use of the names of individuals to describe pathological entities, thus hypernephroma is probably a more generally acceptable term than Grawitz tumour.

We cannot agree with certain of the opinions advanced in the chapters on injuries of bones and of joints. For example, it is stated
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that on the first day following the reduction of a Colles' fracture with displacement, the wrist-joint should be moved and that the splint need only be worn for a week, a procedure which has been shown to be unnecessary and to entail definitely the risk of redisplacement. Again, the statement that the reduction of a dislocated semilunar bone at the wrist is impracticable, and that the bone should be excised, is surely at variance with practical experience. In another chapter Köhler's disease of the tarsal scaphoid is said to occur about puberty, whereas it is typically met with at a much younger age; it is further stated to be similar to Kienböck's disease of the carpal semilunar, a view that would appear to require modification. These, however, are minor points and they detract but little from what will be found to be a most attractive and valuable book.

Recent Advances in Pathology. By Geoffrey Hadfield, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.) and Lawrence P. Garrod, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Pp. x + 392, with 67 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1932. Price 15s.

This volume forms one of the "Recent Advances" series and fills a gap in the pathology library. The authors have not attempted a complete review of pathology, but have selected certain subjects in which recent advances in knowledge have been marked, or which are important because of their interest or frequency. Thus, after chapters on the reticulo-endothelial system and tissue culture there are four chapters devoted to various aspects of cancer research. Then follows an account of the deficiency diseases in which is set out a useful diagram of calcium metabolism. The recent work on the pneumoconioses is well described. No less than sixty-three pages are devoted to Bright's disease, including a discussion of renal oedema. The recent views on tumours of the central nervous system and the encephalitis problem are clearly stated and the last chapter deals shortly with the ductless glands.

This book is not a mere compilation of recent papers, it is a readable account of the present position of the various subjects dealt with. As this is the first appearance of such a book the authors have briefly referred to some of the older but fundamental work in order to show developments that have followed.

The only criticism that might be made is in the section on the ductless glands: in this no reference is made to the pituitary in spite of the important observations, largely by Cushing and his co-workers, on the different types of cell in that gland and their effects when pathologically altered. The genital glands are omitted, perhaps intentionally, though the effects of, e.g., ovarian hormones on the uterus have important bearings on the pathology of that organ.

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There are only one or two trivial printing errors, and on p. 254 (lines 11 and 12) "first" and "second" should be transposed.

The authors are to be congratulated on the production of a compact, readable volume, well illustrated by clear photographs. It should prove useful to those who have to teach and to senior students.

*Genetic Principles in Medicine and Social Science. By Lancelot Hogben, M.A., D.Sc.* Pp. 230, with 7 illustrations. London: Williams & Norgate, Ltd. 1931. Price 15s.

This book is a clear demonstration of the fact that the study of heredity in man presents special problems, but that methods can be developed by the use of which the difficulties inherent in human material may be overcome. In the case of man, as distinct from experimental animals and plants, planned experiment is impossible, the rate of reproduction is slow, and the family is small. On the other hand, medical literature contains a great store of carefully recorded hereditary defects and deficiencies. The precise genetic analysis of this material demands mathematically sophisticated methods that are unnecessary in the case of laboratory forms. Professor Hogben assumes that his readers already have a knowledge of genetics and proceeds to show how great is the contribution that may be anticipated from the new methods. So rapidly is knowledge accumulating in this field that already, during the short interval that has elapsed since this book was written, much new work has been published. In particular, the book should be supplemented by reading a series of papers now being published by Professor Hogben himself in the *Journal of Genetics*.

In addition to a consideration of heredity in relation to human pathological conditions, the author includes lucid and stimulating chapters on such subjects as the genetic basis of human behaviour, the concept of race, population growth, and the social application of genetic principles. The book is a most valuable contribution to human biology, and more particularly in the field of human genetics may well mark the beginning of a new era.

*Recent Work on Ptosis (Prolapse) of the Female Pelvic Viscera. By E. Hesketh Roberts, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), M.B., B.S. (Lond.).* Pp. 118, with Röntgenographs, 2 illustrations and 2 tables. London: Dickson & Scudamore. 1931. Price 9s. 6d.

In this book the author discusses the anatomy of the female pelvis and the changes associated with vaginal prolapse. His personal observations on the operating table have led him to regard much of the anatomical teaching in text-books to be unsound. He criticises in detail the conventional views and states the conclusions to which
his own observations have led him, and he gives a new interpretation of the factors responsible for the statics of the female pelvic viscera. He has devised a new method for studying the position of the bladder and the vagina under normal conditions and also in prolapse. The method consists of instilling opaque fluid into the bladder and by introducing opaque paste into the vagina. Thereafter radiograms are taken from the antero-posterior and lateral aspects (a) at rest and (b) whilst the patient is straining. As the result of these observations Dr Roberts has brought out some interesting and valuable data in regard to the anatomy of prolapse and, more particularly, of cystocele. His combined anatomical and radiological investigations have led him to revise the operation carried out for prolapse and, in a final chapter, he discusses this in some detail. He believes that in cases of marked cystocele, restoration of the anatomy can be carried out satisfactorily only by an operation in which a cystopexy is performed by a combined abdomino-vaginal route. The book is obviously the result of a large amount of sincere and thoughtful work and it is worthy of study by all gynaecologists.

The Principles and Practice of Psychiatry. By Alexander Cannon, M.D., P.H.D., D.P.M., and E. D. T. Hayes, M.D., D.P.M. Foreword by Professor J. Shaw Bolton, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. xvi + 437, with illustrations. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd. 1932. Price 25s.

The authors have written this book especially for examination purposes, and in an attempt to obtain clearness and simplification they have tended to become over-dogmatic. Psychiatry does not lend itself kindly to such treatment. A wide field is covered because in addition to the usual topics we have chapters dealing with landmarks in the study of psychology and systematic psychology, important points in the study of some brain and spinal cord diseases, and principles of physiology relating to the nervous system. A vast amount of information has been collected, but the clinical descriptions are too sketchy and compressed to be satisfying. The best chapters are those relating to psychiatry and the law. The psycho-therapeutic procedures advocated are of the simplest description and have more than a touch of mediævalism, as may be gathered from the following quotation: “Select your words, retain your dignity, reveal your kind heart, show your affection, impress upon your patient your sincerity of purpose, remembering that every word you utter has untold power, every word has magic power.”

The book may be useful for rapid revision previous to an examination, but it could not be recommended to a student, nor is it detailed enough for reference purposes.