REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

History of Scottish Medicine to 1860. By John D. Comrie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927.

This volume was issued by the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum on the occasion of the inauguration of a Section of History of Medicine at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Edinburgh, 1927. It contains a general survey of medicine in Scotland from the earliest time down to the period when the operations of the Medical Act of 1858 were beginning to be felt, and when Lister was appointed to the Chair of Surgery in Glasgow. The work is very comprehensive and covers the whole of Scotland, but the Edinburgh School of Medicine is treated in much greater detail and more profusely illustrated than other parts. Additional portraits occur to us as being worthy of inclusion. We congratulate the author on a laborious but praiseworthy research.

Atlas of the History of Medicine. I: Anatomy. By Dr. J. G. de Lint, Leiden. With a Foreword by Charles Singer. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1926. (15s. net.)

In anatomy, "the first phrases a student learns tell him something of his forebears"; and as the proper understanding of a science depends on a knowledge of its history it is essential that such history be studied. Dr. Singer, from whose introduction to the present volume we quote, writes in support of Professor de Lint's method of teaching medical history by pictorial representation. The author in his preface tells us of the genesis of the Atlas, and his choice of method is explained by the following sentence:—"A classical picture of an anatomical procedure, the portrait of one of the heroes of anatomy, or the title-page of one of the great anatomical treatises of the past, can awaken the memory of some anatomical discovery which may be fixed thereby." His hope is that a pictorial survey of the development of anatomy from early times to the present day will help to arouse the interest of the student. The book opens with the
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index, which is so arranged that the reader has before him the scheme of the work, and will therefore have no difficulty in finding any particular subject therein dealt with. An index of names of the various anatomists mentioned comes next, and will further help the student in his quest. We have looked over the volume and have derived much pleasure from so doing. The contents successfully carry out the author's idea, and will, we believe, realise his aim. We commend the Atlas to all teachers and students of anatomy, as well as to others who may be interested in the historical aspect of medical studies.

NEW EDITIONS.

Diseases of the Heart. By Frederick W. Price, M.D., F.R.S.Ed. Second Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (21s. net.)

There is little, if any, alteration in the arrangement of this book since the appearance of the first edition eight years ago. Some new matter has been introduced on such subjects as quinidine therapy, bundle-branch block, nodal rhythm, and the pathology of auricular fibrillation and auricular flutter. We think that subacute bacterial endocarditis, and thrombosis of the coronary arteries should have received more detailed attention so as to aid in their clinical diagnosis, while the chapter on paroxysmal tachycardia could have been more concise. As the book cannot be expected to be a complete guide to electrocardiography, we think the records in the chapters specially devoted to this subject would have been more useful had they been interspersed throughout the book to illustrate the various conditions described. The book contains a large amount of useful information.

Materia Medica. By William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D. Lond., M.D.Dub., L.L.D.Edin. Nineteenth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1927. (10s. 6d. net.)

In this edition the already existing matter has been thoroughly revised, and many new drugs and methods of treatment described for the first time. The most important of these are sanocrysin, parathyroid, scarlet fever antitoxin, toxin antitoxin mixture, bismuth as used for syphilis, and lead as used for cancer. A book that has reached its nineteenth edition needs no reviewer's commendation. The present edition in every way keeps up the high standard of its predecessors.