NEW EDITIONS.

A Manual of Practical X-Ray Work. By DAVID ARTHUR, M.D., D.P.H., and JOHN MUIR, B.Sc., M.B. Second Edition. Pp. 351. With 185 Illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1917. Price 12s. 6d. net.

The authors of this work present a volume which, from cover to cover, affords valuable information: no matter whether the reader be beginner or adept in the science and practice of radiology, there is much of interest and instruction. Perusal of this book affords genuine pleasure, in that the work is a masterly excursion into the history, physics, and technique of X-rays.

In the preface the authors aim at producing a book which will be a “practical manual,” and in this they have entirely succeeded. In a manual of such all-round excellence it is difficult to single out any portion of special merit; still, the science of radiology will benefit by their fair comparison of the merits of coil and transformer. A more intimate acquaintance with the latter in its more modern form will no doubt constrain them to yield to the transformer that pride of place to which the latest type of this instrument is entitled.

If the price of the Coolidge tube had been more moderate, the paragraphs on this important piece of apparatus might have been amplified with considerable benefit; the Coolidge tube used conjointly with transformer and the filament heated therefrom give almost unsurpassable results.

The chapter on localisation of foreign bodies is exhaustive and practical, but the opinion expressed, that the scale and compass method of localisation is less convenient and exact than another method described, cannot be maintained in practice. The chapter on diagnosis is eminently practical, and abounds in valuable suggestions.

The book is well written and admirably illustrated throughout, and a close study of the work will fill with admiration all interested in the science, and will afford to others about to undertake X-ray work an excellent introduction to the study.

Psychological Medicine. By MAURICE CRAIG, M.D., F.R.C.P. Third Edition. Pp. xii.+484. With 27 Plates, some in Colour. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1917. Price 15s. net.

The appearance of a third edition of Dr. Craig’s manual on mental diseases for practitioners and students is a testimony to its growing popularity. Though not perhaps so stimulating to thought as some other books on the same subject, it is obviously the outcome of much
thought and wide reading on the part of its author. It is practical and useful, and anyone who has mastered its contents will find himself in possession of a most serviceable fund of knowledge on which to base his diagnosis and treatment of a class of diseases specially difficult in these respects.

As stated in his preface, Dr. Craig has not added much to the previous edition of his book. Reference is made to the Mental Deficiency Act, which came into operation in 1913, but little information can be given except to explain the Act, as the war has almost completely stopped its application. Psycho-analysis is explained in a general way, and, while deprecating the large claims made for it by some, he is ready to admit its helpfulness in a few special cases. Greater attention is given to a consideration of the many new types of mental disturbance produced in soldiers by the stress and injuries of the present war. The numbers of these cases are now large, and so many skilful and experienced specialists are studying their symptoms that a real advance in our knowledge of these puzzling conditions is confidently expected. Dr. Craig contributes not a little to this advance by his own experience of such cases, and no doubt when the war is over, and time can be given to more extensive and intensive study of them, the contributions to knowledge of both normal and morbid psychology will be substantial.

A Handbook of Midwifery. By Comyns Berkeley, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Fourth Edition. Pp. 513. With Colour Frontispiece and 74 Illustrations. London: Cassell & Co., Ltd. 1917. Price 6s. net.

A fourth edition of this handbook for midwives has appeared, thoroughly revised, its contents re-arranged, and its scope considerably enlarged by the addition of several chapters on elementary physiology. Though essentially a handbook for midwives, the author has, we think with advantage, indicated not merely the precise treatment of the various complications of labour as they are to be carried out by the midwife, but also the probable line of treatment which the doctor will follow on his arrival. He makes it perfectly clear that such treatment is never to be attempted by the midwife unless in very exceptional circumstances.

We are glad to observe that the author has devoted a few pages to cancer of the uterus, a subject which receives but scant attention in most manuals of midwifery written for nurses, and we welcome it because of the incalculable service which a monthly nurse or midwife can render to women if she is fully acquainted with the nature of this disease. Dr. Berkeley has succeeded in presenting a wonderfully comprehensive little handbook, and every chapter carries with it the weight of an experienced teacher and operator.
Malingering. By Sir John Collie, M.D. Second Edition. Pp. 664. London: Edward Arnold. 1917. Price 16s. net.

The volume before us is a most interesting one and goes far beyond the limits which the title would appear to set. For not only have we a treatise on the title subject, but a very full account of court practice and a good deal of case law. The author has a fluent style, and imparts a very real atmosphere to the descriptions he gives of the various types and varieties of malingering. He also contrives to incorporate much sound clinical wisdom, and has not omitted to include within his pages much that is quite late as regards clinical tests and diagnostic methods.

This, the second edition, is more ample by far than its predecessor, and may be thoroughly recommended to those interested in court work. One fancies the book will be read by many lawyers engaged in workmen’s compensation cases. They will find it useful.

A Text-Book of Practical Therapeutics. By Hobart Amory Hare, M.D. Sixteenth Edition. Pp. 1009. With 156 Illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1917. Price 25s. net.

This, the sixteenth, edition of Hare’s Therapeutics fully maintains the high reputation of the author as a teacher of a difficult art. The work before us is not a mere list of drugs and doses, but a most interesting clinical manual with the pleasing power of rewarding the searcher for information with satisfying supplies of knowledge. It is difficult to refer to any point on which adequate information is not to be found in its proper place and in abundant measure. One omission seems to have occurred, and that is, that no reference appears to exist to a useful substance—Kava-kava—which appears in the 1914 B. P. One might be disposed to suggest that the dose of guaiacol for external application as an antipyretic is rather high (10 to 15 m. is probably enough), and to hint that the drug is not free from cardiac depressant effects. But these are minor matters. The volume is one of the classics of medicine and nothing less, and ought to be consulted almost daily by those engaged in the practice of physic.

Text-Book of Ophthalmology. By Ernst Fuchs. Fifth English Edition. Edited by Alexander Duane, M.D. Pp. xxv. + 1067. With 462 Illustrations, and 4 Colour Plates. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1917. Price 30s. net.

Whatever other works the ophthalmologist may possess, a copy of Fuch’s text-book is generally regarded as indispensable. No German edition since the eleventh has appeared, and the present volume contains many additions and alterations supplied by the author himself as well as by the translator which are not present in any German edition. Thus, as is stated in the preface, the book is now in some ways a new work. Much has been rewritten and a considerable
amount of the text has been rearranged, while in many ways, too numerous to specify, the subject-matter has been elaborated and brought up to date.

The method of keeping abreast of modern progress by incorporating the results of recent work by various authors is apt, however, to interfere to some extent with the individuality of authorship and the clear expression of the views of a single widely experienced observer, which formed the great charm and advantage of the older text-books, and of the earlier editions of this work. The result, especially in such a rapidly growing subject as ophthalmology, tends to be somewhat unequal and sometimes confusing, while the constant interpolation of sentences in brackets has a disturbing, if not actually irritating, effect. Thus we find in one place that the use of coloured test objects in examining the field of vision is described as affording as a rule quite unsatisfactory results, and in another as "a particularly delicate test."

In the chapter on glaucoma it is stated in a translator's note that Elliot's trephining is often followed by detachment of the choroide. This is surely not a usual experience; it is not even mentioned in Elliot's book on trephining. Again, in the description of the operation, the ends of the conjunctival incision are prolonged to the corneal margin, a procedure which Elliot himself specially advises against.

In connection with sight testing, the impression is conveyed that the data obtained from Snellen's test, which are usually expressed as fractions—\( \frac{6}{20}, \frac{6}{24} \), and so on—may be equally stated in fractional terms of normal visual power, i.e. \( \frac{6}{20} \) equals \( \frac{1}{10} \) normal vision or \( \frac{6}{12} \) one-half. Such a statement, if made without qualification, is very apt to be misleading, as the true relationship of these data to normal vision is by no means so simple. The real value of \( \frac{6}{12} \), for instance, is probably nearer \( \frac{9}{10} \) than \( \frac{1}{2} \).

In view of the trend of modern legislation affecting workmen, industrial diseases and injuries of the eye, and their relationship to the efficiency and compensation of workmen, might with advantage be dealt with in a separate chapter.

The illustrations as a whole are good and useful, though many of them hardly do justice to the general standard of the book or to the capabilities of modern printing.

Notwithstanding such minor defects, this work is still the premier text-book on ophthalmology, and the present edition will further enhance its reputation and justify the anticipation that it will continue to maintain its acknowledged position.

In spite of the untoward present circumstances and the addition of nearly a hundred pages, the price has been increased by only five shillings.