He finds that failing distant vision is the first symptom and he advocates the use of subconjunctival injections of cyanide of mercury in the treatment of cases in which the sight is still 6/10. Even up to 6/12 good results may be obtained, but they are not permanent. He strongly advocates the treatment as being eminently satisfactory.

He urges general practitioners to send every case of failing vision in men over 40 to the ophthalmologist at once. The treatment probably acts by producing hyperamia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith discusses also the question of the causation of cataract, but concludes that none of the theories will stand the test.

A Note on the Treatment of Vomiting in Malaria.

By F. Lomax Wood, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
St. Helier, late H. P., Manchester Royal Infirmary, etc.

It is not uncommon to have to treat patients who have contracted malaria, especially of the malignant tertian form, and who suffer from vomiting of a severe character, which renders it difficult for them to take quinine and food per os.

In each of the 8 cases a single dose of 7 or 8 minims of the adrenalin solution in 1½—2 ozs. water sufficed to relieve the vomiting at once. Not only did this distressing symptom disappear, but the patients were able to take quinine and nourishment better than before the vomiting occurred. This remedy was given primarily to check the haematemesis, with a view to the constriction of the gastric blood-vessels, but as it brought about so rapidly the cessation of vomiting, it was subsequently administered when vomiting only was present and then proved quite successful.—The Practitioner, December, 1921.

Mr. Balfour and the Encouragement of Medical Research.

The following passages occur in Colonel King's interesting letter in "Science Progress" for January, 1922.

Sir,—In reply to a recent question on the subject of awards of Government for scientific research workers whose results have been in an unusual degree of wide public benefit, Mr. Balfour deprecated any special action in the case of Medical Science. He held that the sole object of the Civil List sufficiently met the requirements of all branches of science. The sanction of special awards (such, for example, as the sum of £30,000 allowed by Parliament in the case of Jenner) would, he contended, present the "overwhelming" difficulty of determining which of the various workers who had previously secured data of utility in solving a specific problem had the merit of being primarily decisive or merely adjuvant.

If, in grouping sciences generally with medicine, Mr. Balfour had before him factors influencing their constitution or methods (physical and mental) of production which were reasonable on a par, his argument for equality of treatment would necessarily receive acceptance, but he failed to take cognizance of an important factor in connection with Medical Science which renders his comparison incorrect and his decision inequitable.

The medicine man is precluded from exploiting for monetary benefits, by means of a patent, a discovery, for which he may have toiled for years and have expended ill-spared private funds.

It is evident that this ethical ruling is against the monetary interests of the individual, and, in all but enthusiastic, is liable to inhibit research. Were it otherwise, in times of epidemics and wars, might not the doctors aspire to the sublime rank of profiteers? Small royalties on new-fangled but potent drugs, surgical instruments, and equipment, and on far-reaching organic products combining results of chemical and bacteriological skill might well bring in fortunes to individuals.

That research workers in other sciences are not thus restrained from obtaining patents to cover their discovery is self-evident from a ruling which appears in Notes on the Conditions under which Grants are made to Individuals and Research Workers and Students in Training, issued by the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in 1920. Indeed, it would be well, in view of Mr. Balfour's dictum—if that be final—that the medical profession should free itself of the ethical burden as to patents by giving permission in special cases to members to secure patents, on the approval of a sub-committee of the Medical Council appointed permanently for that purpose.

Reviews.

"SYNOPSIS OF MEDICINE." Published by John Wright and Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Price 21s.-

This little volume is densely packed with information, it is specially intended for students who wish to revise their knowledge of medicine in a hurried manner before their examinations or for medical men who wish to pick out the salient points in connection with a particular disease in a few minutes. It is not intended to replace the standard textbooks. The best authorities have been followed in the collection of materials for the book, the arrangement is clear and orderly, and provided that the book is restricted to its legitimate uses, it will be found extremely useful.

AIDS TO FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY.

This is the ninth edition revised and enlarged of the late Dr. Murrell's well known "aide" in this branch of medicine. It is like the previous editions a thoroughly useful book and can be relied on by students as a very great help for the final revision of the subject before examination.

One word of warning is, however, necessary for students in India using this book. They should carefully note in the margin points of difference between English and Indian Jurisprudence.

DIABETES: ITS CAUSATION AND TREATMENT.—
By Lt.-Col. E. E. Waters, m.d.: Published by Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta. Price Rs. 10/-

Medical men in India will welcome the second edition of this excellent little book by Lt.-Col. Waters. It has been out of print for the
past two years so that the first large edition which appeared late in 1917, was evidently exhausted very rapidly.

The book contains in a readable form what every doctor ought to know about diabetes. In this new edition the more recent work on the subject has been incorporated and fresh records from Col. Waters' own clinical experience have been included.

Diabetes is a subject which needs special treatment for Indian students and practitioners and the present little volume exactly meets the special requirements of Indian medical men.

McCay's recent work is freely drawn on though the author does not see eye to eye with him with regard to the importance of acidosis in the diabetics of Bengal. So far as the practical management of the disease is concerned, there is a pleasing unanimity amongst recent workers and it really looks as if the disease had become fairly easy to treat, provided of course that the patient will loyally co-operate with his medical man.

The dietetics of diabetes which is the all-important matter in connection with the disease is fully and clearly dealt with and any doctor who reads this book carefully should have no difficulty in handling his cases with satisfaction to his patients and himself.

**The Care of Infants in India.** Published by Messrs. George Gill and Sons, Ltd., 1922. Tenth edition.

This book issued by the proprietors of Mellin's Food, is mainly intended for the use of Anglo-Indian mothers. It contains a simple account of the hygiene of infancy in warm climates, and the minor ailments which may be encountered.

The question of infant feeding is largely taken up by a description of the various uses of Mellin's Food.

The chapters on the nursery and ayah, care of the child, teething and vaccination, should prove of considerable help to those for whom this book is intended.

**The Threshold of Motherhood: A Handbook for the Pregnant Woman.**—By R. Douglas Howat, L.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.C.S. (Edin.) and L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.). Published by Messrs. Maclehose, Jackson & Co., 1922. Price 3s. 6d. net.

An attempt is made to explain the various phenomena which occur during the successive stages of a normal pregnancy, and those functional disturbances which are likely to occur. Unnecessary technicalities are avoided so that the average pregnant woman may understand.

The directions as to care during pregnancy and for personal hygiene are simple and will be found of considerable use. The preparations for the confinement are well described, and the hints given as to what is really necessary should prove helpful to the middle class expectant mother, who is obliged to consider ways and means.

**Mentally Deficient Children: Their Treatment and Training.**—By G. E. Shuttleworth, B.A., M.D. and W. A. Potts, M.A. M.D. Published by Messrs. H. K. Lewis & Co., London. Fifth edition, 1922. Price 10s. 6d. net.

It is not surprising to find a demand for a new edition of this work, supplying, as it does, in so large a measure, the needs of all who are concerned in practice with the care of young children. Although the great war and the consequent financial stringency in Great Britain have seriously interfered with the carrying out, as completely as could be desired, of the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, it appears from the more recent information supplied in this book, that considerable progress has been made. More extended provision for the care of the defective class has also been made in the United States of America and in the British Overseas Dominions, notably in South Africa, where a comprehensive Mental Disorders Act, including in its scope the classes of congenital defectives, moral imbecile and epileptic idiots, was passed in 1916. The volume is well illustrated. Twenty-nine illustrations including twenty-one plates, together with the clearly described clinical cases in the text should prove of considerable help to the general practitioner in India who may be called upon to deal with cases of abnormal development in children, mentally feeble or deficient, presenting special difficulties in diagnosis and prognosis. The recommendations as to treatment are very useful, together with the observations on special educational methods, based on physiological principles which are well described.

In view of the pioneer work done by one of the authors of this book as Psychological expert to the Birmingham Justices, special interest is attached to some additions to the text in this new edition, relating to mental tests and criminal procedure. Recently the recognition of the importance of individual examination and treatment in criminal work, as well as in education has done much to stimulate research. While emphasising the importance of the psychological examination of juvenile delinquents, the authors state that they do not consider any one set of tests yet put forward as completely satisfactory in determining whether a particular individual is defective or not, and in their opinion the judgment of the examiner is called for after all, especially in regard to the influence of environment and physical conditions.

The fact that a whole chapter should be devoted to the requirements of the medical examination of mentally defective children under the regulations of the Board of Education,
draws attention to the need for more adequate provision for the care of such children in India.

Additions in the text of this edition regarding the use of psycho-therapy will be read with interest in view of the general attention now directed to this method of treatment: psycho-therapy is stated to be of value as treatment in special cases only. A knowledge of psycho-therapy is stated to be invaluable in dealing with defectives, because it gives an insight into some of their troubles and difficulties, and a guidance in handling them which can be obtained in no other way. As a means of treatment suggestion is available for those whose attention can be concentrated sufficiently, and is seldom contraindicated because the defective can never hope to attain normal development, and may therefore be treated with authority.

Various forms of analysis are also useful, and are easier than in the normal because the defective is incapable of any deep emotion, and has very limited associations of ideas. The warning is added however, that the possibilities of cure are limited because of the underlying mental defect, which is an innate defect of mind.

The appendices contain a summary of useful information regarding institutions, tests of intelligence, certification, etc. We note however, that in the history of Institutes for mental defectives in the British Empire, no mention is made of India. The pioneer work carried out with the help of the educational department of the Government of Bengal, at The Children's House, Kurseong "for the teaching and training of children, who through some mental defect, are unable to benefit by the course in an ordinary school, or to compete with normal children," well deserves a place in this history.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS, ITS ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT.—By David C. Muthu, M.D., M.R.C.S., Associate of King's College, London, Medical Superintendent, Mendip Hills Sanatorium, Wells, Somerset. Published by Messrs. Bailliere, Tindal & Cox, London. Price Rs. 12½ net.

The reader of this book will be surprised to learn that Dr. Muthu denies that the Tubercle Bacillus is the cause of tuberculosis and that his view of bacteria in general is that they "arise for the most part from within from the altered condition of the blood."

In the earlier part of the book we seem to be back in the middle ages, back in the times when diathesis was everything. As we progress we find that every aspect of the tuberculosis problem is dealt with on rational lines except that the part played by the bacillus in infection and in the spread of the disease from one part of the body to another. Indirectly of course, the open air treatment copes automatically with the danger of spreading infection, while the respirator though ostensibly employed for its action in stimulating the tissues probably does everything that can be expected from an antiseptic.

Dr. Muthu's book is regarded as an essay on the factors other than the bacterial which are important in connection with tuberculosis is admirable. From the practical point of view if only stress were laid on the necessity for preventing the spread of infection it is an excellent guide to the management of the tuberculous patient. When we remember that in the combat against the tubercule bacillus we are dealing with an enemy which assails us at every turn and that our best defence against it lies in heightened resisting powers we can freely admit that Dr. Muthu has stated more than half the truth in so far as the practical fight against tuberculosis is concerned. But a whole truth is better than a half or even a three-quarters truth, and it is a pity that so excellent a book should be blemished by absurd and false doctrines such as the generation of bacilli from leucocytes. Dr. Muthu puts the new wine of sound treatment of consumption into the old bottles of medieval hypotheses and it is to be feared that the result will be what might be expected—the good that is in his teaching will be utterly wasted.

THE SURGERY OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURIES OF WARFARE. (Hunterian Lectures, 1921.) By Harry Platt M.S., Lond., F.R.C.S., Eng. Illustrated, price 4½ net. John Wright and Sons, Ltd., Bristol. 1921.

These lectures are based on over 500 cases treated in the Manchester Centre and represent not only the work of the author himself, but also of those associated with him. The results have all been checked by a neurological expert and we are given authoritative facts and figures.

The war has provided a vast amount of material for the study of peripheral nerve injuries and the end-results of operative treatment are now appearing. Every surgeon should make himself familiar with such facts as are established. In this book the subject is dealt with in a concise and convincing manner.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of The Indian Medical Gazette.

Sir,—The main mortality from the operation of excision of the upper jaw is now aspiration, pneumonia and the chief disability of the patient arises from the free communication of the nasal cavity with the mouth and consequent early inability to swallow and need for rectal feeding.

These objections may be most successfully met by leaving almost the whole of the hard palate and finally suturing it accurately to the cut edge of the mucous lining of the cheek. By this measure the patient can swallow from the first, the wound is entirely cut off from the mouth and healing is more rapid. The textbook incision dividing the soft from the hard palate is quite unnecessary.