Physiology of the Nervous System. By J. F. Fulton, M.A., D.Phil. Oxon, S.B., M.D.Harv., Sterling Professor of Physiology, Yale University; formerly Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press.) 1938. (25s.)

Professor Fulton has had a wide experience both in this country and in the United States of America, and is well known both as a teacher and a worker in the difficult field of experimental neurophysiology. His book, which runs to 675 pages, deals very completely with the anatomy and experimental physiology of the nervous system as observed in the primate. Each chapter commences with a historical note of the important work done on the region under discussion. There follows the detailed description of structure, experiments, and their implications, and the chapter finishes with a short summary. This method helps considerably in giving order to the masses of facts and references. The bibliography includes 1,361 references used in the text, and there are indices both of authors and subjects. The author has purposely avoided discussion of the problems of physiological psychology. The book is amply illustrated by diagrams, but in some of the more complicated of these the use of colour would have made for clarity. According to the author "an attempt has been made to include material that will aid those whose ultimate objective is the study of clinical medicine," but the contents are primarily physiological and discussion of clinical implications is infrequent and never extensive. On the other hand, the student and even more so, the teacher of neurology or neurophysiology should give this excellent book a warm welcome.

Clinical Bacteriology. By F. A. Knott, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939 (12s. 6d.)

This well-written book, compact, inexpensive well-illustrated should appeal to both students and practitioners of medicine. It differs from other text-books of bacteriology in its insistence upon the clinical significance of bacteriological phenomena. As a result, descriptions of technique and the less important cultural reactions...
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have been cut down to their essentials. In his preface the author states that the standard he has kept in mind has been that of the average M.B. practical examinations.

Early in the book, he tabulates in parallel columns the old and the new nomenclature of micro-organisms and discusses very fairly the advantages of the latter. In an appendix, he deals with the collection of bacteriological specimens, routine staining methods, culture media and serological tests.

The sections on viruses, complement fixation, immunity and infection are particularly well done.

The book throughout is most readable and the author must be complimented on the amount of material that he has compressed so successfully, into four hundred pages.

Set of Six Cards Used in Tests for the Hearing of Speech by Deaf People. By D. B. Fry, B.A., and P. M. T. Kerridge, Ph.D., M.R.C.P. Size: 14" x 10" in envelopes. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1939. (4s. 6d. net.)

The cards contain five columns of single nouns and five sets of sentences. The former are used for people who can hear sufficiently well to understand isolated but common words, while the latter are for those who require help from the context before they can appreciate the meaning. One column of nouns or one set of sentences may be used at any one testing occasion. The alternatives are provided for patients being re-tested so that memory shall not play a part.

The method is particularly useful when a voice test with some measurable result is required, as when deciding between possible settings of a tone control on a valve amplifier hearing aid, and also in the consulting room to compare the hearing for the human voice at different visits.

The Chemistry of the Amino Acids and Proteins. Edited by Carl L. A. Schmidt. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1938. ($7·50.)

The name of Carl L. A. Schmidt has been associated with the chemistry of the proteins for many years, and thus this compilation by some fifteen contributors is under an authoritative editorship. Professor Schmidt himself is a large contributor. The book deals with approximately one-third of the subject of biochemistry, and for this reason one is not surprised to find that it runs to more than one thousand pages. A mass of scattered information on the amino acids and proteins is collected here and presented in an integrated form,
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In the past we have had to depend chiefly on German compilations when in search of facts, as such books are all too rare in English, and those that exist often do not cover the whole ground. The work under consideration is certainly encyclopaedic, and the enquirer within will not be disappointed. The chapter on chemical and physical characteristics, sections of which range from anisotropy to viscosity, is of especial interest.

In places perhaps a more critical treatment might have been advantageous. For example, Wrinch's cyclol theory of protein structure is given what seems to be an undue amount of space, considering that this theory is largely speculative, and not yet supported by experiment, and that the evidence from x-ray studies at present available is against the possibility of this structure.

It must be pointed out that this is a book primarily for the chemist, though the chapters on the relations of the amino acids to products of biochemical importance, the relations of proteins to immunity, and the rôle of protein in nutrition will be of value to the more purely medical reader.

All biochemists will be indebted to Professor Schmidt and to those who have co-operated with him to produce this book.

Anus, Rectum, Sigmoid Colon: Diagnosis and Treatment. By Harry Ellicott Bacon, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.P.S. Introduction by W. Wayne Babcock, A.M., M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.S. Foreword by J. P. Lockhart Mummery, M.B., F.R.C.S. London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1938. (38s. net.)

Professor Bacon is on the staff of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. He has produced an elaborate but concisely written treatise on proctology within the scope of 855 pages. There are 487 illustrations. The print, paper and binding are good.

Those who do not investigate the contents of the volume may be mislead by the sub-title: it contains very much more than diagnosis and treatment. The opening chapters on anatomy, physiology and anaesthesia are by no means insignificant and to us it appears that the author has succeeded in including every lesion or condition, minor and major alike. His remarks on operations and post-operative treatment are of considerable practical value.

The bibliography is generous in its extent and includes the names of many of our colleagues in this country.

This book will occupy a prominent place amongst other works on proctology.
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Social Service in the Clinic for Venereal Diseases. By Dorothy Manchee. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, Limited. 1939. (3s. net.)

This little book is intended by the author for the use of students and workers engaged in social service, particularly in London and the surrounding districts. It is really a plea for the employment of almoners at female Venereal Diseases Clinics, and stresses the extreme value of their various services.

It also contains much useful information about the various centres in London for the treatment of Venereal Diseases and the after-care of patients.

Imperial and Metric Conversion Scales. By J. W. Thornton, M.A., B.M., M.R.C.P. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1939. (6s. net.)

Seven scales for conversion of pounds to kilos, grammes to grains, &c., are printed on a varnished card (21½" x 16½") suitable for wall hanging. As long as we continue—ill-advised though it may be—to use both metric and imperial scales in clinical and scientific work, this conversion chart should be very useful indeed.

NEW EDITIONS

Practical Pathology, including Morbid Anatomy and Post-mortem Technique. By James Miller, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., and James Davidson, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E. Third Edition. London: A. & C. Black. 1938. (25s. net.)

This book is a valuable addition to the library of the pathologist, being the result of years of experience of routine and medico-legal post-mortem work and of pathological histology. For the student, however, its usefulness is rather limited by a lack of discussion of general principles and etiological factors. The standard of the illustrations also is far from uniform; many of the coloured plates are really excellent, and that of fatty degeneration of the heart (p. 56) compels our admiration, but the text figures on the whole are poor.

Excellent features are the descriptions of methods of examination of the foetus and the newly-born infant, aspects on which the pathologist in a general hospital is usually quite ignorant. The
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appendix of technical methods is unusually complete but we wish in a summary of this kind that more emphasis had been placed on the use of corrosive sublimate or corrosive sublimate and formalin as a general fixative and particularly for small objects such as curettings. We regret, too, the existence in the text of such phrases as “to microscope the tissue” and the almost uniform use of the term “germs” for all micro-organisms.

In spite of these somewhat carping criticisms, however, the book is as good as a “refresher” course in pathology, serving as it does frequently, to focus attention on aspects of pathological work and technique previously inadequately visualized or appreciated.

The Student's Handbook of Surgical Operations. By Sir Frederick Treves, Bart. Revised by Cecil P. G. Wakeley, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.A.C.S. Hon., F.R.A.C.S. Sixth Edition. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1939. (12s. net.)

It is now eight years since the last edition of this well-known text-book was published, and in the interval much advance has been made in operative surgery. Most of this new work has been incorporated in this sixth edition and without altering the original character of the book; though in our opinion, the present edition is of much greater value than ever before. It is certainly a book which every student should have in his possession, and we would like to congratulate Mr. Wakeley on his labour.

Pye's Surgical Handicraft. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.Eng. Eleventh Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. London: Simpkin Marshall, Limited. 1939. (21s. net.)

The author, in conjunction with twenty-eight distinguished contributors, has set out to provide a practical handbook which is of inestimable value to the house-surgeon and practitioner. The illustrations are many and of a very high order. It would be a rare clinical condition that did not receive some reference as regards treatment in this volume.

Mr. Bailey's contributions are many and include detailed instructions for the Ochsner-Sherren treatment of appendicitis, the management of abdominal cases, the pre- and post-operative treatment of thyroid cases, head injuries, renal cases, including an up-to-date review, in detail, of renal function tests. Mr. W. Gabriel is responsible for the section on rectal surgery, and Mr. R. Watson-Jones deals most
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adequately with fractures, dislocations and other orthopaedic measures. This book more than maintains the great reputation which it has held for the past fifty-four years and is enthusiastically recommended.

Food, Health, Vitamins. By R. H. A. Plimmer, D.Sc., and V. G. Plimmer. Eighth Edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1939. (5s. net.)

This small book is a good presentation for the general reader of the dietary requirements. The defects which may arise from vitamin deficiency are briefly but clearly indicated, and there is a chapter on common errors in diet. In this eighth edition the most recent research work on the vitamins is described and more attention is paid to the total quantity of food required, to the protein and to the minerals.

Recent Advances in Chemotherapy. By G. M. Findlay, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939. (21s. net.)

In writing the second edition of this book Dr. Findlay has been faced with a formidable task, and it may be said at once that he has acquitted himself with distinction. Here we have a veritable encyclopaedia of medical knowledge of chemotherapy. The fact that the text contains approximately 2,000 references gives some insight into the scope of this publication. It is not surprising that the principal addition consists of a full review of the treatment of the acute infections with the sulphonamide group of drugs. This section occupies about one-fifth of the book—nearly 100 pages—and some 500 contributions to the literature have been abstracted. Recent advances in the chemotherapy of malaria and trypanosomiasis also receive special attention. This book is indispensable for all who wish to keep abreast of new developments in this highly scientific and effective branch of therapeutics.

Bacterial Metabolism. By Marjory Stephenson, Sc.D. Second Edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co., Limited. 1939. (21s. net.)

The present edition has cast off its monographic individuality and has assumed the larger dimensions and wider outlook of an advanced textbook. In doing so it has necessarily lost something of its assurance, and a reader unfamiliar with much of the work quoted or recorded

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may wish Miss Stephenson had made less modest use of her critical powers. Nevertheless the publication gives a very able account of the sweeping advances made in recent years; the remarkable discovery of bacterial photosynthesis, new enzyme-systems, developments in the study of bacterial fermentation and in the problem of nitrogen fixation among many others.

One might wish that mention had been made of the influence of copper on bacterial multiplication and that the question of the direct fermentation of the disaccharides, introduced by Wright, had attracted attention, but otherwise Miss Stephenson has succeeded in giving a very concise and readable account of work in the field of "bacterial" chemistry. Our only criticism is with the title, not the author. Most of the work reviewed is concerned with the synthesis and hydrolysis of chemical substances by bacteria rather than with bacterial metabolism per se. The infinite variability of biological material appears to have made little impression on the chemical world; B. coli, whether disguised as Escherichia, Bacillus or Bacterium, still seems to be considered an individual entity.

The book is excellently printed, with an adequate, if not complete, bibliography and is well indexed.

A Handbook of Ophthalmology. By Humphrey Neame, F.R.C.S. and F. A. Williamson-Nobel, F.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill, Limited. 1939. (13s. 6d. net.)

The authors have made no fundamental change in this handbook. A few additions have been made, however, and the chapter on Tropical Ophthalmology has been modified and enlarged. This latter is a useful chapter as little is found on the subject in the majority of text-books. The authors sensibly do not attempt to describe in detail the technique and application of slit-lamp examination, a policy to which they have held in former editions, maintaining that the slit-lamp is of no practical interest to the student or general practitioner. A short description of contact glasses and their fitting is given, but undue attention has not been paid to this subject for similar reasons. A description of vitamins as they affect the eye has been added to the chapter on general diseases. This chapter on first sight appears to be rather short, but many other general diseases are included in the chapters dealing with individual parts of the eye.

This edition upholds the standard set by its predecessors and remains a very useful handbook for the use of student or practitioner. The matter is well set out and the illustrations are clear and illuminating.