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Manual of Medicine. By Thomas Kirkpatrick Monro, M.A., M.D. Fourth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1917. (18s. net.)

It is now a considerable number of years since Professor Monro's Manual of Medicine gained that firm hold upon public favour of which the appearance of a fourth edition is but the confirmation. The reasons for its popularity are not far to seek. Of a size midway between the larger text-books, which it is impossible for students or for busy practitioners to master as a whole, and the smaller handbooks which are used principally for examination purposes, it affords both to the practitioner and to the student who wishes to gain more than a superficial knowledge of his work a survey of the whole field of medicine, and an account of all the morbid conditions he is likely to meet with in his professional life which omits no essential feature, and which is at the same time clear, concise, and eminently practical. The interval of over six years between the appearance of the third and the present edition is accounted for by the demands which the war has made on the time of medical men. It has proved to the advantage of the reader, for it has enabled Professor Monro to include short articles on the forms of disease which have sprung into prominence during the war, and in other ways to bring the book abreast of the most recent discoveries in medicine. The progress of knowledge has altered the classification of various diseases; thus acute poliomyelitis is now described among the infections, to which rat-bite fever and trench fever have also been added, while beri-beri and scurvy find a place among constitutional disorders, and acromegaly has been removed from nervous diseases to diseases of the ductless glands. Due note has been taken of recent work upon the cardiac arrhythmias, and the subject has been illustrated by a number of representative polygraphic tracings. The book
includes a section on diseases of the skin, short indeed—it occupies but sixty-three pages out of over a thousand—but characterised by the same clearness of description which marks the other sections, and furnishing many a useful hint for treatment. Yet we think that skin diseases are more advantageously dealt with at greater length, and that their proper presentment demands an abundance of illustrations which cannot be furnished in a volume like the present. Where considerations of space are of importance, the space gained by omitting the subject of skin diseases might be utilised with much benefit in expanding, for example, the section on intoxications, or in correcting the disproportion between the number of pages allotted respectively to tuberculosis and syphilis. Forty pages are given to tuberculosis, twelve to syphilis; yet if we consider the wide prevalence of the latter, and the prominence now rightly given to its toll of infantile deaths, it would seem at least as important that the practitioner should be thoroughly acquainted with its protean forms as with those of tuberculosis. These, however, are minor criticisms upon a book in all other aspects admirable, and a credit both to its author and to the Glasgow school of medicine.

The Practice of Medicine. By Sir Frederick Taylor, Bart, M.D. Eleventh Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1918. (24s. net.)

In less than twenty years Sir Frederick Taylor's work, which was first published in 1890, has attained its eleventh edition. The fact speaks for itself, and it is not the office of the reviewer to dilate upon the well-known features which have earned the book its very conspicuous position among the larger text-books of medicine. It has been very carefully revised and brought thoroughly up to date, and it must suffice to indicate the main features in which it differs from former editions. The new subjects introduced include trench fever, progressive lenticular degeneration, pulmonary embolism, diaphragmatic hernia, effects of strain on the heart—a subject which has assumed so much importance in connection with the war, trinitrotoluene poisoning, infantilism, renal hæmorrhage, osteogenesis imperfecta, and
trench frost-bite, a name which Sir Frederick Taylor prefers to trench-foot, and which indicates his views as to the nature of the condition. The name *spirochætosis ictero-hæmorrhagica* replaces that of Weil's disease, and the article on the subject has been rewritten in the light of recent research. In the sections on ductless or endocrine glands, dysentery, paratyphoid fevers, poliomyelitis, tetanus, hysteria, diseases of muscles, pleurisy, arterial tension, examination of the heart, diseases of the tonsils, diabetes, and beri-beri much new matter has been introduced. Adrenal inadequacy and hypertrophy, dystrophia adiposogenitalis, and infantilism are all noted in connection with the endocrine glands; the latest work on the dysenteries and on paratyphoid is fully recognised; the treatment of cerebrospinal fever and poliomyelitis is brought up to date; the varieties of tetanus are clearly distinguished and its specific treatment thoroughly discussed; the section on pleurisy is very full and clear; under examination of the heart the modern methods receive full consideration, and are well illustrated by polygraphic tracings and electro-cardiograms; the pathology of diabetes is clearly handled, and the recent Allen treatment is noticed at some length. The book contains fourteen more illustrations than the last edition, and its value is materially enhanced by the excellent series of skiagraphic plates illustrating many of the obscurer conditions of intrathoracic disease. It affords a comprehensive survey of the subject of internal medicine, is very clear and throughout exceedingly practical, and is written in an easy style which makes its perusal a matter of pleasure as well as of profit to the reader.

*Encyclopædia Medica.* Second Edition. Under the General Editorship of J. W. Ballantyne, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Vol. IV: Ear to Filariasis. Vol. V: Filix Mas to Heart. Edinburgh and London: W. Green & Son. 1916 and 1917. (20s. net each volume.)

The new articles in the fourth volume of the *Encyclopædia Medica* are three, those on otosclerosis, by Mr. J. S. Fraser; eclampsia and the pre-eclamptic state, by the General Editor; and eugenics, by Dr. C. W. Saleeby. Mr. Fraser's article forms
a part of the general subject of diseases of the ear, with which
the volume opens; Dr. Ballantyne's gives an excellent and full
account of puerperal eclampsia, both from the theoretic and
the practical side; and Dr. Saleeby makes in somewhat intem-
perate language what is really a temperate and impartial state-
ment of the present position of eugenics, both as a science and
as a hobby. He appeals, in closing, to the medical profession to
rescue it from the hands of propagandists. The most important
sections of the book, if importance is to be judged by the space
allotted to each, are those devoted to the ear, embryology,
eczema, and ectopic gestation. The series of articles dealing
with the ear has been given to authorities on the different
branches of the subject, to which as a whole no less than a
hundred and seventy pages have been assigned. Out of these
articles a text-book of very considerable size might be constructed,
with the advantage over the usual one-man text-book that each
part of it has been written by an author who is an expert in his
particular branch. In the article on embryology, from the pen
of the Editor, the development of the ovum is followed to the
end of the sixth week, and the subject is illustrated by a series
of admirable plates and figures which materially aid the author's
clear presentment in lessening its complexities. Dr. Leslie
Roberts deals with eczema at considerable length, and from an
entirely modern point of view, which it is interesting to contrast
with the older purely clinical descriptions. He regards the
pathology of eczema from the standpoint of histo-dynamics, and
shows that the disease depends essentially upon a lowering of
surface pressure and the effects so produced upon the capillaries
of the skin. The conception is fruitful in that it furnishes the
physician with clear and rational indications for treatment. All
the articles in the volume, as in its predecessors, have been
carefully revised and brought down to date, and the illustrations
add much to its attractiveness and utility.

In volume five the new articles are those on first aid, by Dr.
Watson Wemyss; the development, anatomy, and physiology of
the foetus, by the Editor; diagnosis in gynaecology, also by the
Editor; and examination of the heart by graphic methods, by
Mr. G. D. Mathewson. Dr. Ballantyne devotes sixty pages to
his account of the foetus, a subject which in view of the pro-
minence recently given to ante-natal treatment has become of
the highest importance. Taken along with his article on embryology in the previous volume, it forms a very complete statement of the entire course of ante-natal life. The paper on diagnosis in gynaecology is concerned mainly with methods of case-taking, manual examination, and the diagnostic use of instruments. That on graphic methods of examining the heart forms a part of the series of articles upon the heart which occupies two hundred pages—more than a fourth of the volume. The section on cardiac embryology, anatomy, and physiology, with that on motor disorders, is written by Dr. Alexander Morison; the affections of the myocardium and endocardium are treated pathologically by Dr. Kelynack, and clinically by Dr. Graham Steell; congenital malformations fall to Dr. John Thomson; and the surgery of the heart to Mr. James M. Graham. There are in the volume numerous other articles of importance, of which space forbids more than a mention. We may select for notice those of Mr. D'Arcy Power on fractures, Mr. Mayo Robson on diseases of the gall-bladder and bile-ducts, Dr. Still on the gastro-intestinal disorders of infancy, Dr. Hyslop on general paralysis, Mr. Priestley Smith on glaucoma, Dr. Alexander on gout, Dr. David Newman on haematuria, and the excellent paper of an unnamed contributor on the applied anatomy of the head and neck. With the exception of Dr. Hyslop's, all have been revised or rewritten by their original authors, and are thoroughly representative of the present position of knowledge.

Many others of almost equal interest must escape even mention in the compass of this review, but enough has been said to show that the succeeding volumes of the *Encyclopaedia* fully maintain the very high level of their predecessors. Its most conspicuous feature is that, without omission of any theoretic considerations of importance, every contributor has kept in the foreground the practical aims of medicine.

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*Marching on Tanga.* By Francis Brett Young, M.B. London: W. Collins, Sons & Co., Limited. 1917. (6s. net.)

This record of work with a field ambulance in General Smuts's advance upon Tanga is by one who is better known in the world of literature than in that of medicine. Very many readers of
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fiction have been grateful to Mr. Brett Young for enchanted hours, and it is well that the description of a vital part of the East African campaign, of his personal share in which he speaks so modestly, should have fallen into his hands. None but a practised pen could have so pictured for us the scenes which he describes that we feel ourselves a part of them. The movement and the dust of the column, the sudden bursts of fighting, the brief talks with passing strangers, met for a moment yet vividly characterised, are all seen by the reader. But it is not mere description that so fascinates him; he feels that Africa has sunk into the being of Mr. Brett Young, who is thus able to transmit to others a sense of its glamour and its cruelty almost equal to his own. The scene in the forest in the opening chapter has an eeriness which we know to be no invented thing, and which brings home to us the strange fascination which may lie in things unclean. Mr. Brett Young’s book is literature, but it is also truth.

Shell-Shock and its Lessons. By G. Elliott Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., and T. H. Pear, B.Sc. Manchester: at the University Press; and London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1917. (2s. 6d. net.)

Small as it is, this is in many ways the best book on shell-shock which the present war has produced. Its authors, who are tied to no particular school of psychotherapy, take a broad and catholic view of their subject, and discuss its nature and results with a freedom from prejudice, an impartiality of observation, and a balance of judgment, which are far from common in these days of psychological polemics. The chapter on the nature of shell-shock is only some twenty-six pages long, yet it includes a description of the symptoms which could hardly be bettered for truthfulness or for the width of its scope. The chapter on treatment discusses all the important methods which have been proposed, borrows from each what is best in it, and unifies the whole conception of the subject by its appeal to rational principles. That on psychological analysis and re-education contains some very sound criticism of the popular antagonism to these methods, and points out the indications which justify their
employment. But the authors do not stop here. Going on from general considerations of shell-shock as a psychoneurosis, of its usually ready curability in the early stages and its often inveterate resistance in the later, when its morbid concepts have become part of the patient’s ratiocination, they indicate the light which it throws upon the treatment of insanity, and while protesting against the stigma which may be cast upon the psychoneurotic by his treatment in insane asylums, they enter a strong plea for the establishment of psychiatric clinics, where both the psychoneurotic and the early mental case may be treated while there is yet a prospect of cure. Continental countries—those of our enemies among them—are far ahead of us in the treatment of the insane. Here there is no public provision for treatment until a case has become certifiable, often at a stage from which no recovery is possible; and if recovery comes, the patient and his family live thenceforth in popular opinion under the shadow of the whispered word “asylum.” There psychiatric clinics exist where cases of nervous disease are treated along with early mental cases, with the result that no stigma attaches to anyone frequenting the clinic, that relatives willingly bring the mentally afflicted, and that the number of recoveries is greater than anything that our methods can show. Here at great expense we make hopeless cases comfortable; there at much smaller cost they restore men and citizens to their friends and to the State. If for nothing else than its fervid plea for reform in our lunacy laws and administration, this book would be admirable; but it is admirable in all its parts.

Practical Guide to Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear. By William Lamb, M.D., C.M.Edin., M.R.C.P.Lond. Fourth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1917. (8s. 6d. net.)

The popularity of this manual is evident by the issue of a fourth edition, and it well deserves its success. It is filled with practical hints from close, careful clinical observation and study. The author modestly calls it a “Guide for senior students and junior practitioners,” but we feel sure that even those with a
more extensive knowledge of the subject will find much in it that will be useful and helpful. In the present edition there have been a few additions to the text to bring it up to date—these are chiefly a fuller description of the submucous resection of the nasal septum, the intranasal treatment of fronto-ethmoidal suppuration and the vestibular reactions in labyrinthine disease. There is also a short section on the prevention of otorrhoea. This has reference mainly to otorrhoea in measles and scarlet fever, and is well worth emphasising. The treatment advised is so successful that a former superintendent of Hardwicke Fever Hospital is quoted as saying, "Of late years I cannot call to mind a single case in which a patient left the hospital with the ears running." This might be recommended to the notice of public health authorities in charge of fever hospitals as a condition to be aimed at. The volume is well illustrated and indexed, and has a good formulary. The price is remarkably moderate.

__Spiritualism and Sir Oliver Lodge.__ By Charles A. Mercier, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. London: The Mental Culture Enterprise. 1917. (4s 6d net.)

Two circumstances have conspired of late years to favour the cult of spiritualism—the longing for a message from the dead which exists in so many of those bereaved by the present war, and the endorsement of the possibility of such communications by Sir Oliver Lodge, a man of high scientific attainment, and of outstanding position as Principal of Birmingham University. His pronouncements upon the subject have resulted in a rush to the spiritualistic fold on the part of many who previously wished to believe, yet feared to be gullèd. The number of those who dally with spiritualism is already great, and is steadily increasing. Yet it is well known to medical men that such dalliance may, in those of sensitive nervous organisation, result in disaster, and in final overturn of the mental balance, if, indeed, it is not in some cases already symptomatic of early mental instability. Last year a vigorous note of warning on this aspect of the subject was very properly sounded by Dr. Robertson, of Morningside, in his annual report upon the patients under his
care, and it may have deterred some would-be investigators from their pursuit. But there are many, confident of their mental soundness or driven by the pangs of severed love, who will think lightly of the risk if they are assured that it is "scientifically proved" that messages from the dead can be transmitted to the living. They know that many mediums are conscious or unconscious frauds; they will risk that, in the hope that in their own instance the message may be genuine, if they believe it to be demonstrated on the highest authority that genuine messages have been received. A critical examination of Sir Oliver Lodge's proof therefore becomes a necessity. If they stand, they stand, be the consequences what they may; if they fall, it is to be hoped that much evil will fall with them. To this task Dr. Mercier brings, besides his scientific attainments, the special qualities of a trained logician and examiner of evidence. He was asked to review Raymond, but declined on the ground that the sorrow of a bereaved mother was not fit matter for discussion in the public press. We appreciate his motive, but regret that it precluded him from a demonstration of the frailties of that plausible book. Its perusal, however, sent him to The Survival of Man, upon the evidence adduced in which Sir Oliver Lodge's belief in intercommunication is founded; and the present work is in the main an examination of that evidence. It begins by a survey of the recurrent prevalence of spiritualistic ideas in epidemic form, and goes on to an investigation of the grounds of belief, and of the kind of evidence to which credence should be attached. The specific propositions are illustrated by examples taken from the evidence to which Sir Oliver attaches most weight, and under Dr. Mercier's skilled analysis they prove flimsy indeed. Opportunities for collusion are shown to have existed when none were suspected, the credibility of the witnesses is proved to be by no means above suspicion, and the credulity of Sir Oliver Lodge is demonstrated in many instances. Dr. Mercier draws an interesting parallel between the evidence for spiritualism and that for witchcraft. Both are of the same kind and equally well attested, so that logically the believer in spiritualism is almost forced to believe in witchcraft too. The final chapter is given to a dissection of the experiences with Mrs. Piper, and Dr. Mercier has little difficulty in showing that she could have
known many of the things which were said to be impossible for her to know. The bottom is knocked out of Sir Oliver's proof. The convinced spiritualist, however, may still reply that there are things beyond argument, things incapable of a rigorous proof, which yet from their nature or from the sanctity of their message demand belief. If he adopts that line, the best answer would seem to be that a creed which demands belief in the *enfantillages* of Raymond is on the face of it no creed for thinking men and women. However strong the appeal of the higher aspects of spiritualism in the writings of such men as Myers—and there must be few who have read the noble closing chapters of *Human Personality* without experiencing at least the impulse to believe—a creed that impels one hitherto of sound judgment to record in all seriousness the caresses of a table would, if accepted, make chaos of the minds of men.

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*The Thyroid Gland in Health and Disease.* By ROBERT M'CARRISON, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1917. (12s. 6d. net.)

Major M'Carrison's researches upon the etiology and pathogeny of goitre, and his successful treatment of it by means of vaccines, are already known to a wide circle of his professional brethren; the extent of his work upon the general pathology of the thyroid gland, with the consequences that it involves in the rational treatment of exophthalmic goitre and of tetany, are not as widely known as they deserve to be. This volume embodies his various researches in a general survey, and it may be said at once that it throws welcome light on much that has been dark in thyroid pathology. Briefly summarised, his main thesis is that, excluding inflammations, diseases of the thyroid have essentially the same histological beginnings. They commence in all cases with active secretion, merging into abnormally active secretion, with multiplication of cells and new vesicle formation. Along with this there is an increase of fibrous stroma and of lymphoid cells, a compensatory process to which is added a chronic inflammatory element due to the action of toxic agents on the thyroid. This varies in acuteness and in
degree, and may or may not cause enlargement of the gland. It may end in atrophy of the cells and their replacement by fibroblasts (myxœdema), or in reversion to the colloid state (colloid goitre), or it may continue without rest to ultimate exhaustion of the cells (Graves' disease) and cell death (myxœdema following Graves' disease). The degree and variety of the changes depend upon the nature and dose of the toxic excitant which is the ultimate cause of the thyroid condition. In adult life the toxic element is derived from organisms inhabiting, in the great majority of cases, the gastro-intestinal tract; in foetal life (cretinism) from toxins circulating in the maternal blood. Major M'Carrison's work has already familiarised us with this theory of endemic goitre and of cretinism, and has gone far to prove it correct; the facts and arguments which the present volume adduces tend very strongly to show that the thyroid change is not the whole of exophthalmic goitre, which has a deeper cause in the influence of the toxins of anaerobic intestinal organisms upon the thyroid and the system as a whole. The consequences which this involves in treatment may readily be imagined; it discredits operative interference with the thyroid as being in effect symptomatic treatment only, and calls for vigorous gastro-intestinal antisepsis and strict attention to the *primaeviae*. Though there may be quantitative excess, there would tend, on this interpretation, to be qualitative defect of thyroid secretion even in exophthalmic goitre, and careful thyroid medication may therefore have a rational place in the symptomatic treatment of its later stages, as may also vaccines derived from the organisms of the intestinal tract. With both of these Major M'Carrison narrates some successes. That the phenomena of tetany depend not alone upon parathyroid disease, but also partly on thyroid implication, is another of his theses. He discriminates a nervous type of cretinism, which has very close resemblances to Little's disease, or the cerebral diplegias and paraplegias of children; and it would seem that from an unexpected direction much light may be shed on the features of a malady, the etiology of which has hitherto been largely speculative. Upon a point of practice, Major M'Carrison does good service in calling attention to the excessive doses in which thyroid extract is usually given, and to the evil results which may follow such doses. Three to five grains are often
ordered thrice daily, a quarter to half a grain once daily being a sufficient dose at the outset, the quantity to be increased only under careful observation. It will be seen that the book is one which ought not to be neglected by anyone interested in the pathology or therapy of morbid affections of the ductless glands.

The Principles of Rational Education. By Charles A. Mercier, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. London: The Mental Culture Enterprise. 1917. (2s. 9d. net.)

Whatever Dr. Mercier writes is worth reading, and his views upon the vexed question of public school and university education are worth the close attention of all who are interested in the subject. They lose nothing from the manner of their presentation, which follows from his habit of clear thinking and incisive speech. His indictment of the present system, under which, in too many instances, ten years of school and university training leave the brain a tabula rasa, is forcible indeed, but is largely justified by the results which every reflective man must see on all hands. His leading principle is that knowledge is gained by action, not by parrot-work; that the mind should be trained by doing, and by doing those things which will fit it for the purposes of after-life, not those which at best will furnish it with a more or less learned or elegant recreation. Those who desire to know how he proposes to apply the principle to practice must be referred to his book, with the assurance that they will find it stimulating and provocative of thought.

Hystérie-Pithiatisme et Troubles Nerveux d'Origine Reflexe en Neurologie de Guerre. By J. Babinski and J. Froment. Collection Horizon: Précis de Médecine et de Chirurgie de Guerre. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1917. (4 francs.)

The attention of neurologists of all countries has been devoted since the outbreak of war to the numerous aberrant forms of functional and organic nervous disturbance which have been
induced by its circumstances of extraordinary strain and shock. The rôle of hysteria in the production of such disturbances is of much importance, and the diagnosis between hysteria and organic disease is often a matter of some difficulty. Hysterical disturbances are, in the majority of instances, if not in all, susceptible of rapid cure by appropriate treatment. They are produced, according to the more modern view of hysteria urged by MM. Babinski and Froment, by suggestion, and are removable by suggestion (hence the alternative name pithiatism, from πειθω, I persuade, and ἰατρός, curable). The war has afforded the authors an unequalled field for the study of the effects of emotional and physical shock in the production of hysteria, and the results of their study are strongly to corroborate their view that hysterical phenomena are not a primary effect of shock, but arise at a later period from auto- or from hetero-suggestion. The importance of their views in regard to prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment must be manifest. The second part of the volume deals with nervous affections of reflex origin, the paralyses, atrophies, or contractures that arise in a limb which has been wounded, for example, without organic lesion of the nervous system. They constitute a group intermediate between hysteria and organic disease, and are more allied to the latter in their prognosis and their unamenability to treatment. To distinguish them from hysteria proper is therefore a matter of real importance, and it is a service which MM. Babinski and Froment have performed in the ablest manner. The numerous illustrations add very greatly to the value of the clinical descriptions.

Psychonéuroses de Guerre. By G. Roussy and J. Lhermitte. Collection Horizon: Précis de Médecine et de Chirurgie de Guerre. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1917. (4 francs.)

This volume is in a sense complementary to that of MM. Babinski and Froment on hysteria and reflex nervous disorders of the war, but while to a limited extent it covers the same ground in dealing with hysteria pure and simple, it treats from a more general point of view of the functional affections at the basis of which lies a psychic emotional element. An exact description
of the symptomatology is a feature of the book which will commend it, not only to neurologists, but to all medical officers who have to deal with these troublesome cases. Beginning with a definition of the psychoneuroses, and a discussion of the points in which they differ from simulation, the authors proceed to a clinical description which passes from the simplest forms, such as elementary motor affections, to the more complex psychopathic disorders, such as may be manifested in purely psychical disturbances. Affections of the gait, sensory disorders, visceral disturbances, nervous crises, are all reviewed in turn, and the book ends with a study of etiology, general pathology, and treatment of the conditions described, and of the medico-military measures to be adopted in dealing with them. It has all the lucidity and logical development which is so characteristic of French medical writing, inherent as it is not only in their literature but in the spirit of the nation; and it forms a contribution to the subject which cannot fail to be read with as much profit as pleasure.

Elements of Hygiene and Public Health. By Charles Porter, M.D., B.Sc. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1917. (12s. 6d. net.)

The importance of the subject of public health in the State may in some measure be gauged by the number of books which are issued from the press bearing upon the problems of preventive medicine. This is a new book. Its plan, according to its author, differs from others in respect that it has been devised and written particularly for the busy medical practitioner, and it does not pretend to do more, as its title indicates, than treat of the "elements" of hygiene and public health. Hence it must be judged from these standpoints.

In the 384 pages which compose it, a large amount of apt and valuable information has been compiled from various sources, including the experience of the author as medical officer of health for one of the London boroughs. Made up of twenty-eight chapters, these bring under review practically all the subjects commonly found in any well-planned manual of public
health; indeed, no subject of importance has been missed. The
subject of prevention of infectious diseases has been amply
treated, and the law as to notification duly set forth. A list of
diseases to which the law of notification applies is given on page
44 which, however, differs from another list given on pp. 85-86.
This may tend to confusion in the mind of the young practitioner
beginning practice in a district in which the added notifiable
diseases vary. It is satisfactory to find pneumonia pressed
upon the attention of the practitioner as an infectious disease.
We do not think that it ever arises except from a pneumococcal
or other bacterial cause, and we are of opinion that its infective
character has not been so generally recognised and acted upon
as it ought to be. While pneumonia has been made notifiable
in some populous centres in America, notification is not yet
compulsory in this country, but the time is likely to come when
it shall be. The same might be said of the summer diarrhoea of
infants in view of its heavy mortality.

Venereal diseases are also treated of in the book. We agree
with the author that the absolute extent to which these diseases
prevail is practically unknown, but we go further and suggest
that any computations which have already been given are
conjectural and should be taken for what they are worth.
Nevertheless, the existence of these diseases, either in their
primary or later manifestations in the individual or as hereditary
effects, constitutes a serious blot on the public health history of
this and other countries. Now that the danger signal has been
hoisted and legislative enactments for their prevention and
treatment have been devised and made law, it is to be hoped
that by vigorous prosecution of these measures much may be
achieved in their repression. Whether this country has struck
at the root of the matter, however, remains to be demonstrated.

In view of the increased importance of industrial diseases
arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the author
devotes attention to occupational diseases and industrial hygiene.
He puts before his readers the notifications to be made by the
practitioner to the Chief Inspector of Factories of industrial
poisonings and diseases which may arise from occupation and
the means for their prevention. We observe under the head
of arsenic that he states as one of the chief signs of poisoning
"perforation of the nasal septum." This is a very rare sign
indeed—by no means a chief sign—in arsenic poisoning, although it is relatively common in chrome poisoning among workers in the chrome industry. Some useful information is given respecting "dope poisoning" in aeroplane work and the toxic effects of nitro- and amido-derivatives of benzene in the manufacture of explosives and other occupations. In like manner attention is called to skin and other surface tissue affections, eye affections, ear affections, and the effects of working in abnormal atmospheric environments.

The subjects of climate and meteorology and of disposal of the dead are discussed in a chapter devoted to each. Speaking of cremation and the precautions to be taken against the concealment of crime, the author states "there must be produced two medical certificates from qualified men who have seen the body." Since this work is for the general practitioner, it would have been better if it had been stated that one certificate was to be given by the medical attendant of the last illness of the deceased and a second confirmatory certificate by another practitioner of not less than five years' standing, and attention ought to have been drawn to the fact that in the Home Office regulations relating to cremation this second certifying practitioner must be the holder of one of certain positions named in the regulations.

Ventilation, warming, and lighting receive due notice. The removal and disposal of refuse and waste, including the subjects of house-drainage, traps, sanitary conveniences and appliances, drain-testing, sewers and sewage, disposal of sewage and sewage purification, conservancy systems, and removal and destruction of refuse are discussed at some length and clearly put before the reader. The author employs the expression "overground drains" to include the soil-pipe, waste-pipe, and rain-pipe. We think this general term a mistake; for as the author himself says—"these three pipes are all overground pipes." The word pipe, descriptive of its purpose, is, therefore, a sufficient designation. Hitherto in house-drainage the term "drain" has been confined to any underground channel for convection sewers of the contents of the soil-pipe, waste-pipe, and rain-pipe, and to avoid confusion this arrangement, we think, ought not to be disturbed. The subjects of schools, school-sites, and school hygiene generally receive appropriate attention, as do other subjects.
The author must have intended his book chiefly for the practitioner in England, for we observe under the heading of “death certification” on page 375, he refers simply to the time within which, after a death, certification must be made in England, without any allusion to the time or manner of certification in Scotland or Ireland.

The book is furnished with 98 illustrations of varying merit; indeed, some are not very illustrative. There is a satisfactory index. Keeping in mind the intention of the author with regard to those for whom the book was written, we may say generally that it will serve a useful purpose and be helpful to the practitioner, particularly to such as have been for several years in practice. Its plan is well conceived, its matter clearly and compendiously expounded, and it does not pretend to be exhaustive in its treatment. We can, therefore, with confidence recommend it to the practitioner as a handy and useful manual.

The Internal Secretions: their Physiology and Application to Pathology. By E. Gley, M.D. Translated from the French and edited by Maurice Fishberg, M.D. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1917. ($2.00 net.)

The English translation of Professor Gley’s work comes at a time when the conception of internal secretion is in a general way familiar to everybody, when such secretions are commonly credited with exceptional therapeutic properties, and when preparations purporting to represent them are administered, often indeed scientifically, but nearly as often on the vaguest indications, and with little more than hope as a guiding principle. Its warnings and cautions, its expositions both of the considerable amount that we know and of the still greater amount that we do not know of the nature and uses of these secretions, therefore make their appearance very opportunely.

The book opens with a historical account of the origin and development of the concept of internal secretion, and proceeds to discuss the characteristics of the internal secretory glands and of the products of their activities, while its final section is devoted to an account of their function in health and disease.
To determine a true internal secretion the cells of the gland in question must present the characteristics of granular elements in close relation to the efferent vessels; a specific substance must be chemically determined in these cells and in the venous blood; and the venous blood must have the physiological action and properties of this substance. Not all the so-called endocrine glands fulfil these conditions, and it is in only a few cases that the specific substance has been chemically identified in the venous blood. This physiological proof has been given for the spleen and pancreas, for secretin and for adrenalin, but not as yet for the mammary hormone, or for any of the morphogenic internal secretions including the thyroid. The proof of internal secretion from the action of organic extracts is beset by fallacies. Substances contained in such extracts may not exist in the living glandular tissue, or be regularly excreted into its venous blood; and all organic extracts consist of a conglomeration of substances which may or may not include the specific product of the gland. The properties of these substances may mask or exaggerate those of the internal secretions. Further, an identical physiological reaction may be produced by a multiplicity of organic extracts, whence it follows that these extracts are non-specific. Extracts of thymus, thyroid, testicles, prostate, and pancreas, for example, may all provoke contraction of the bladder. The action of such extracts is often toxic, but their toxicity is met by the phenomenon of tachyphylaxia, resulting in very rapid immunisation, and it is absurd to consider an extract against the toxic effects of which the organism protects itself in several minutes as a product of internal secretion. In some instances, too, a characteristic physiological effect can only be obtained by the injection of doses of the extract so excessive that they represent in weight the total mass of the organs from which it was obtained, or even of several such organs. In view of such observations the therapeutic method of organic extracts, as commonly applied, becomes open to much suspicion.

Considerations of space prevent a further development of Professor Gley's argument, or of his lucid exposition of the actual state of our knowledge in regard to internal secretion; but enough has been said to show that except in a few instances the therapeutic use of organic extracts rests upon a very uncertain basis, and that one is not justified in supposing without
further demonstration either that a given extract contains the internal secretion of the gland from which it is derived, or that it contains it as an isolated substance from which nothing but its specific effects are to be expected. The book is much to be commended to all those interested in the subject of internal secretion, whether from the physiological or from the therapeutic side.

Minor Maladies and their Treatment. By Leonard Williams, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1917. (7s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Williams's book is now very well known to the profession, and the appearance of a fourth edition is an indication that it continues to fill a place of its own. Minor maladies receive but scant attention in the medical curriculum; the subjects of them do not present themselves even at the outdoor department of large hospitals; and the young practitioner is thus launched upon his career with little or no practical experience in the treatment of coughs other than those due to organic disease, of constipation, simple dyspepsias, neuralgias, or the symptoms incidental to old age. Yet if not the most formidable, these are among the most annoying of ailments from the patients' point of view, and they constitute nine-tenths of the cases met with in ordinary practice. It is precisely in such cases, where his previous experience fails him, that the practitioner will turn to Dr. Williams for assistance; and he will seldom turn in vain. There is nothing stereotyped about the book; the author, as he claims, has preserved a mind open to progress; and while he does not abandon "old-fashioned" methods of treatment because they are old-fashioned, he includes in his therapeutic system all the modern methods that appear to be of permanent value. There is only one evidence of haste in the preparation of the volume; the page references in footnotes are often inaccurate; but we trust that this defect may be corrected in subsequent editions.