REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

The Hot Springs of New Zealand. By Arthur Stanley Herbert, O.B.E., M.D., B.S.Lond. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1921. (15s. net.)

In New Zealand, and to a less extent in Australia, the value of the hot springs of New Zealand is well known, and the facilities available for treatment are much in demand. In this part of the world little is known of them, and the author supplies this deficiency in the present volume, which contains much valuable information in readable form. For certain waters which are not found in Britain the Continental spas were formerly much sought after. New Zealand can supply these, and also certain other powerful waters (particularly the nascent sulphuric acid water), which are wholly unrepresented in Europe. There is, unfortunately, in New Zealand a dearth of good purgative waters. All varieties of hot springs, geysers, and boiling mud springs are fully described, with their respective therapeutic values; but, in addition, the spa centres receive due attention. As is natural, Rotorua, the principal spa and tourist centre, takes pride of place, and here it is interesting to find that all the resources of a modern spa are available for the visitor. A chapter of special interest is that in which the author discusses the classification of rheumatic diseases, his opinions on which have already been placed before the medical public in this country. Shortly, he divides the so-called "rheumatic" diseases into two main groups—those in which the temporo-maxillary and cervical vertebral joints are affected (he terms this the "jaw-neck syndrome"), and those in which they are not. He holds that this distinction is of great practical importance, as the former definitely and absolutely excludes gout and true rheumatism, and includes the infective cases, thus giving direct indications for treatment. We can recommend this book to all interested in balneo-therapy. The volume is profusely illustrated with excellent photographs.
Traité de l'Immunité dans les Maladies Infectieuses. By Professor Jules Bordet. Paris: Masson et Cie. (40 fr.)

The discovery that bacteria and protozoa were responsible for a great group of diseases has naturally been followed by a period of very active investigation into the means whereby the body combats these pathogenic agents. The researches on immunity which have thus originated constitute an enormous and ever-growing literature. Bordet is pre-eminent among the pioneer contributors to this science. Therefore his treatise bears the stamp of that critical attitude which is begotten by personal experience. The book does not aim at being encyclopaedic, but presents an admirable perspective; the fact that it requires 700 pages to accomplish this shows what dimensions the subject has attained. The important work of French investigators is presented with a comprehensiveness not to be found elsewhere. Bordet has an intense "prédilection pour les réalités"; therefore speculation offends him, and he repeatedly objects to Ehrlich's interpretations of immunity phenomena. The view that antibodies consist of "free receptors" meets with strong disapproval. According to Ehrlich's well-known "side-chain" theory, toxins act on a vulnerable cell through first of all combining with certain chemical groups or receptors attached to its protoplasm molecules. The process of immunisation is conceived to be a hypertrophy of these receptors, which the cell is stimulated to produce in excess as a result of administering non-lethal doses of the toxin. The overproduction of receptors would thus be in conformity with the general law of hypertrophy. The excess of receptors, however, does not remain attached to the cellular protoplasm, but is supposed to be set free as a secretion in the blood plasma. There the free receptors function as antitoxin chiefly by combining in the circulation with toxin and so preventing the latter from reaching the susceptible cells. It is true that no strict experimental proof of the identity of receptors and antitoxin molecules exists at present; but the hypothesis does not appear to be irrational, and nothing more probable has been offered by any other investigator. The physico-chemical conception of adsorption certainly does not afford an explanation
of the remarkable specificity of the antibody which the living organism elaborates in response to a given antigen. The treatment of such controversial questions, however, has the wholesome quality of provocativeness. Taken as a whole, the book is one which should be read by all who wish to apply what is known of immunity phenomena to the study of disease. The clinical aspects are treated fully and in an admirably well-balanced fashion. Of special interest are the abundant references to tuberculosis which serve to emphasise the magnitude of the problems which involve this highly mysterious infection.

C. H. B.

Les Antigènes et les Anticorps. By M. Nicolle. Paris: Masson et Cie. (4·50 fr.)

This book contains the Harben lectures delivered by Nicolle at the Royal Institute of Public Health in 1920. The author has succeeded in giving in very small compass, but with great clearness, the main facts concerning immunity reactions and their application to diagnosis, prophylaxis, and treatment. The outlook is always truly scientific; his original views on many points, especially the mechanism of antibody reactions, reflect the author's own experimental work. At the same time the practical results obtained in serum and vaccine therapy are critically set forth. The book is probably not one best suited for those approaching the subject for the first time; but it should be read with advantage by all who are familiar with the exposition of a good text-book. C. H. B.

The Physiology of Gout, Rheumatism, and Arthritis as a Guide to Accurate Diagnosis and Efficient Treatment. By Percy Wilde, M.D. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1921. (12s. 6d. net.)

The attractive title of this book raises hopes in the reader's mind which are far from being fulfilled. The author deals with the genesis of the urate, the lithate, and of uric acid. He
associates rheumatism with the lactic acid diathesis, and is a strong advocate of “pyretic” treatment. He also treats of gout and the lithic diathesis, chronic rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatic gout, and “neuritis.” In the preface the author states that he has no theories, but in the book the reader will find much incomprehensible theory, and some remarkable statements of chemistry and physiology. Many of his statements are simple assertions without proof. For example: “alcohol in moderate doses permanently raises body temperature” (p. 147); muscles in chronic rheumatism waste from disuse, “and also on account of the thickening of the cell walls interfering with nutrition” (p. 152); arthritis deformans—“a direct disease of the central nervous system” (p. 180). The author condemns the use of salicylates in acute rheumatism. He thinks that prematurely grey hair in patients of the lithic diathesis is due to the excretion of lactate of ammonia, and he can diagnose rheumatoid arthritis from chronic rheumatism by shaking hands with the patient. He is fortunate enough to find that “many cases of chronic gout, rheumatism, and arthritis, in which a hopeless prognosis has been given, are perfectly curable.” His full account of treatment is therefore worthy of attention.

Feebleness of Growth and Congenital Dwarfism, with Special Reference to Dysostosis Cleido Cranialis. By DR. MURK JANSEN, O.B.E. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. (12s. 6d. net.)

In this book the eminent Dutch orthopaedic surgeon sets forth the effects of various abnormal influences which he calls “nocive agents” upon ante-natal and post-natal developments and growth. In the first part of the book he describes various types of feebleness of growth, and shows that it is proportional to the intensity of the “nocive agent,” and to the rapidity of growth (a) of the individual, so that severe degrees of feebleness of growth belong to the first years of life; (b) of the parts so that, first, the musculature suffers—next, the skeleton. In the second part of the book, Dr. Jansen deals with the phenomena of congenital dwarfism. The nocive agent in this group is
amniotic pressure, and the author shows diligent research and careful study in the manner in which he indicates how this nocive agent, acting with varying intensity and at different periods of embryonic development, produces effects on cell groups in fastest growth at the time of action, resulting in the various deformities which we know as anencephaly achondroplasia, Mongolism, dysostosis cleido cranialis, &c. This book, which is profusely illustrated, is a valuable contribution on a difficult subject, and throws new light on some conditions which are at present much under discussion.

NEW EDITIONS.

The Organs of Internal Secretion. By Ivo Geikie Cobb, M.D., M.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1921. (10s. 6d. net.)

The present edition of this well-written book has been brought thoroughly up to date, and contains three new chapters, the last of which discusses some practical points in hormone-therapy, and will be found of considerable use. The book can be recommended as giving a very readable account of the present state of our knowledge of this fascinating subject. "Alto," on page 40, should be "also."

Diseases of the Digestive Organs. By C. D. Aaron, Sc.D., M.D. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. (50s. net.)

This thoroughly practical book, which specially deals with the diagnosis and treatment of gastric and intestinal disorders, has been completely revised, enlarged, and brought up to date. The matter has been well chosen, and where necessary sufficient practical detail is supplied, as in the case of gastric and faecal analyses, to render the work of notable value to the enquiring practitioner and also to the specialist. The printing is good, and the illustrations are highly satisfactory. Particular reference may be made to the excellence of the x-ray prints throughout.