NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia. By Peter Wyatt Squire. Eighteenth Edition. Pp. 1417. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1908.

A book which has stood the test of fifty years and has passed into its eighteenth edition must long ere this have justified its existence. A glance at Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia will at once show those unfamiliar with the work how much useful information it contains, for both the practitioner and for the pharmacist. Since the seventeenth edition was published there has been a marked advance in chemistry as applied to pharmacy, and in the remedial agents which are recognised by the physician. This advance has necessitated many additions to the work, and a complete revision and rewriting of much of the volume.

Like the Pharmacopoeia, the volume is arranged in alphabetical order, but there is, in addition, a careful index which makes reference easy. To the prescriber as to the dispenser much interest will attach to the very full discussion of the solubility of different substances. The subject has received close attention, and in the use of those substances which are very soluble in a menstruum the increase of volume caused by their solution is given—a most useful and practical addition to the work.

Under the heading "Medicinal Properties" we have a full and detailed account of all the different pathological conditions for which any given remedy has been prescribed. It is perhaps inevitable that such a work should at times show a childlike faith in the value of drugs, but we do not suppose that the practitioner will necessarily regard the work as his authority on therapeutics.

Under "Prescribing Notes" the physician will find much very valuable information which has been considerably extended in the present edition. If he consults the Companion to the Pharmacopoeia as to the prescribing of a given drug he will find his way made easy and will avoid those pitfalls of incompatibility which have done so much to make the modern tabloid and proprietary remedy so popular. A point on which the Companion is strong is the tests for and the chemical assay of different substances. Here is to be found not only the tests of the British Pharmacopoeia, but of those incorporated in the Pharmacopoeia of Germany and the United States, with such further tests as have been found useful in the laboratory of the author. Still further, a number of the tests are given from the French Pharmacopoeia published last September, which brings the present volume well up to date. The standardisation of preparations is a subject on which much work still requires to be done. In the present volume we find a compendium of
the most recent research on chemical assay. We can but agree with the
author that "the so-called physiological standardisation of galenicals
leaves much to be desired." Still it is of undoubted value, and perhaps
may be considered in a future edition when one may hope that it will
have been placed on a sounder basis.

To the practitioner an interesting addition to the present volume
is a short article on therapeutic agents of microbial origin.

The eighteenth edition of Squire's Companion to the Pharmacopoeia can
be commended as a worthy successor to the volume which had a recog-
nised position and had proved valuable alike to the physician and to
the pharmacist. It contains much that is new and useful. As a book
of reference it will be recognised as an authority on the principal
subjects with which it deals.

The Diagnosis of Small-Pox. By T. F. Ricketts, M.D., B.Sc.(Lond.),
M.R.C.P., D.P.H. Illustrated from Photographs by J. B. Byles, M.B., B.C.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), D.P.H. With 12
Coloured Plates, 110 Black and White Plates, and 14 Charts.
Pp. 154. London, Paris, New York, Toronto and Melbourne:
Cassell & Company.

The practical value of modern photographic illustration has probably
never been better exemplified than in this authoritative monograph
on the diagnosis of small-pox. Every possible phase and distribution
of the variolous eruption are shown in a series of photographic plates,
which are so extraordinarily good in themselves, and so admirably
reproduced, that they are to a great extent capable of affording
information, which, as a rule, can only be acquired at the bedside
of an enormous number of patients. Almost every condition, the
cutaneous appearances of which are liable to be mistaken for small-
pox, is also adequately illustrated. Not only chicken-pox and
measles, but various forms of erythematous, syphilides, and pustular
and eczematous eruptions are shown in detail, and the peculiarities
of their distribution on the skin surface, and in many instances the
character of their lesions, are readily appreciated. A fair number
of the plates are stereoscopic, but, even without the use of an
instrument, they express very clearly what they are intended to
show. There are twelve colour photographs, most of them exceedingly
good, and we particularly notice one of a haemorrhagic eruption on the
thigh, which is not only a perfect representation of the condition
which it illustrates, but is also a real triumph in colour photo-
graphy. It cannot be doubted that, with these plates before him,
the practitioner, who carefully studies the letterpress, will approach
the question of the diagnosis of small-pox with a much greater
feeling of confidence than it has been possible for him previously to have.

It is only right to say that the book itself, quite apart from its illustrations, is certain to take a high place in medical literature, and, we are inclined to believe, may ultimately become a classic. Dr. Ricketts has had a vast experience of small-pox, and for fifteen years he has been engaged in the study and teaching of this subject. He arranges his matter admirably, laying great stress on what he considers most important, namely, the distribution of the eruption, and touching more lightly on other points which, in many text-books, have been quite unduly emphasised. Indeed we suspect that if Dr. Ricketts were asked to give the three main points in the diagnosis of small-pox, he would reply, “distribution, again distribution, always distribution.” Those who have much practical experience of small-pox will, doubtless, cordially agree with this dictum, and anyone bold enough to question it would have considerable difficulty in explaining away the dozens of photographs which prove its importance. It is impossible to summarise briefly the main views expressed in the book. They are already as tersely expressed as is possible, and every page is well worthy of study. It may be well to note, however, that Dr. Ricketts adopts a more simple classification of haemorrhagic small-pox than that usually given. He does not consider that a definite line separates this particularly fatal class of case from others only slightly less serious, and he prefers, on the analogy of the nomenclature of scarlatina, to speak of these cases as “toxic,” cases, in fact, due to the actual poisons of the disease and not to the results of skin suppuration. There is little doubt that the varieties of malignant cases previously described were needlessly elaborated, and we have found at times great difficulty in attempting to classify individual cases. It may be added that some of Dr. Ricketts’s phrases are likely to linger long in the mind of the reader—“The armpit, in particular, is a mine of information,” is an axiom not likely to be forgotten, and there are many striking and brief statements of this character in the book. In conclusion, we may say that we regard the treatise as a necessary part of the equipment of every small-pox hospital in the kingdom, and we also cordially recommend it to the notice of general practitioners and skin specialists.

A Manual of Infectious Diseases. By E. W. Goodall, M.D., and J. W. Washbourn, C.M.G., M.D. Second Edition. Revised and Enlarged. Pp. 426. London: H. K. Lewis. 1908.

This excellent manual is already so favourably known that it is almost unnecessary to do more than extend a cordial welcome to
its second edition. The lamented death of Dr. Washbourn has left the task of revision entirely in the hands of his colleague, and, while successfully preserving all the original characteristic features of the book, Dr. Goodall has brought it most thoroughly up to date. The most important additions are chapters on Glanders, Plague and Cerebro-spinal Fever, and the section on the latter disease gives a most admirable and concise summary of all the most recent work on the subject. The chapter on Enteric Fever has been much extended and in many places entirely rewritten, and that part of it which is devoted to the discussion of perforation and its operative treatment is especially lucid and interesting. Dr. Goodall's experience of intubation, since the last edition was published, has led him to give a much more prominent place to this operation for laryngeal obstruction, and we can hardly doubt that this change of attitude will do much to encourage the more frequent employment of intubation in this country. We notice with pleasure that the reviser considers that a detention of more than four or five weeks is unnecessary in mild cases of scarlatina, and that he holds that there is no clinical evidence that the desquamation is infectious after the fourth week. This authoritative pronouncement, from one with such a wealth of practical experience, will do much to strengthen the hands of fever hospital authorities desirous of cutting down the undue period of detention so usually practised.

We are tempted to quote many of Dr. Goodall's views on the different infectious diseases, as the perusal of his book raises many most interesting and practical questions, but it will be sufficient to say that he has succeeded in giving a condensed and extremely practical account of the diseases of which he treats. His suggestions for treatment are in every case sound, and supported by reasoned facts, and the sections devoted to diagnosis are most instructive. As in the first edition, the preliminary chapters on Rashes and on the Various Forms of Sore Throat will be found very useful.

The diagrams illustrating the distribution of the various rashes are wisely retained. They form an original and useful feature of the book, and for the most part are absolutely above criticism. But, although admittedly diagrammatic, the sketch of the distribution of the typhus rash appears to us to leave a very wrong impression as to the size of the lesions on the skin. These are represented as of far too large a size, especially when compared with the diagrams of the other exanthemata, and might be, with advantage, reduced in a later edition.

An entirely new feature in the book is the large number of photographic illustrations of rashes. These are, for the most part, excellent, those showing small-pox and chicken-pox being particularly good. An iodide rash is also illustrated, and different forms of
erythema liable to be confused with the exanthemata are also shown, and emphasise well the difficulties of diagnosis. The micro-photographs of bacteria, which appeared in the first edition, have been reduced in number. Those which remain are exceedingly well reproduced. We cordially recommend Dr. Goodall's manual to both students and practitioners.

The Prevention of Tuberculosis. By Arthur Newsholme, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 414. London: Methuen & Co. 1908. Price 7s. 6d. nett.

This is the latest volume of the "New Library of Medicine," and contains much that will be of interest and instruction to the "intelligent layman," besides a good deal that will puzzle him not a little. Dr. Newsholme is well known as one of the ablest of living medical statisticians, and he bases a large part of his argument on the foundation of figures. The work is divided into three parts, dealing with the causation, the incidence and the annihilation respectively of tuberculosis. As the whole attack upon tuberculosis will depend upon the knowledge of where it is to be found, the author's opinion as to causation is of great importance. He leans much more decidedly towards Koch than towards Von Behring. For him the tuberculous sputum is practically the only factor that counts, all others being merely adjuvants, Von Behring's theory of the disease as arising through bacilli of bovine origin remaining latent in the bodies of young children being treated as of quite minor importance. It must be said that the argument is very carefully developed. It begins when the author minimises so far as possible the mortality in children from tabes mesenterica, which is so important a point with the Von Behring school. The chapter on Infectivity gives a selection of cases of great interest as showing the frequency of direct infection by the members of a family from one to another. These are all assumed to be directly infected, though milk supplies and extraneous sources of infection are not excluded. In a subsequent chapter dealing with the occurrence of bovine tuberculosis in man it is laid down that only from 5 to 10 per cent. of human tuberculosis is derived from bovine sources. Similarly, in the section devoted to the incidence of the disease, those factors which are generally supposed to play so important a part, such as urban as against country life, overcrowding, pauperism and so forth, are all made to play a subordinate rôle to dust, i.e. dried-up sputum. Based thus upon the Koch position, the ultimate objective is clear, namely, segregation of the sick. Nothing, it would appear, in the campaign against tuberculosis has had anything like the effect upon it that segregation has had. As the mortality in England and Wales from phthisis amongst the working-class population appears to be 28,000, and taking the author's estimate that for each death there may be ten
cases alive, this would give an army of 280,000, for which accommodation would have to be found—a proposition somewhat in advance of public opinion, especially as it would apparently cost about ten millions sterling. In a work of this kind, written primarily for the "intelligent layman," perhaps it would have been more educative to have given him in greater prominence the other theory of causation, in which infected milk fed to infants is the chief cause—the theory of Von Behring. This seems the only omission in a work of very great value, not only for the clarity of its argument, but for the chapters in the second part dealing with the statistical evidence; some of these, such as that dealing with tuberculosis and general health, are models of statistical inquiry, and, while they are probably beyond the grasp of most laymen, should be studied with advantage by all who are specially interested in sanitation.

First Lines in Dispensing. By E. W. Lucas, F.I.C., F.C.S. Pp. 166.
London: J. & A. Churchill. 1908.

The preface states that this little volume is intended for the instruction "primarily of students, nurses and others whose calling necessitates an acquaintance with the art of compounding medicines." It seems to us rather too comprehensive for nurses, who can reasonably be expected to dispense only in the very simplest manner, and who are not supposed to be acquainted even with the little Latin customarily used in prescribing. On the other hand, it is admirably adapted for the instruction and guidance of medical students, and of doctors who dispense their own drugs. The instructions and directions are given in clear and simple language, and are of a very practical value. Weighing, measuring, heating, filtration, labelling and other similar matters are first considered, followed by a short account of the prescription as ordinarily written in this country. The remainder of the volume is devoted to the compounding and dispensing of mixtures, pills, powders, suppositories and all the other forms in which medicines are customarily administered. There is also a short account of poisons and their antidotes. Altogether the book is a sound elementary guide to the practice of pharmacy.

Sprue and its Treatment. By W. Carnegie Brown, M.D. Pp. 259.
London: Bale, Sons & Danielson. 1908.

Sprue is becoming such a common affection among Europeans, and is so frequently seen at home in patients returning from tropical countries, that the book under notice, which contains much valuable information gleaned from many sources, should be of great assistance to practitioners both at home and abroad.
The first seven chapters are devoted to the general consideration of sprue, the history, symptoms, morbid anatomy and diagnosis being fully discussed.

The historical portion forms most interesting reading, but in the morbid anatomy it is disappointing to find that no reference is made to the muscular changes so fully described and illustrated by Bramwell.\(^1\) Moreover, after perusal of this portion of the book, one is forced to the conclusion that the author must have had but limited opportunities of studying sprue and hill diarrhoea in places where they co-exist. In attempting to describe the symptoms of hill diarrhoea some confusion results from the inclusion under this heading of the acute bilious diarrhoea, accompanied by abdominal pain and some constitutional disturbance, which frequently attacks people from the plains on first reaching a hill station. This condition, due to chill, combined with the effects of diminished atmospheric pressure, is quite distinct from true hill diarrhoea.

On the matter of the treatment of sprue by drugs and diet the author evidently writes from practical experience, and this, the greater part of the book, is full of useful information. There is hardly any disease in which the effect of diet is more marked than in sprue, and owing to the exhaustive manner in which the subject is treated in these pages we can recommend the book to anyone having such cases under treatment.

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**The Diseases of Children.** Edited by Dr. M. PFAUNDLER and Dr. A. SCHLOSSMANN. English Translation, edited by HENRY L. K. SHAW, M.D., and LINNÆUS LA FETRA, M.D. With an Introduction by L. EMMETT HOLT, M.D. In Four Volumes. Pp. 440, 619, 552 and 543. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. N.D. [1908.]

Pfaundler and Schlossmann's *Handbuch* is in many respects the most important contribution to paediatric literature which has appeared in recent years, and it is only right that it should have been rendered more accessible to English-speaking physicians through the medium of a translation. Although the book extends to four bulky volumes, it is not to be compared to such works as Gerhardt's *Handbuch*, Grancher, Comby and Marfan's *Traité*, or Keating's *Cyclopædia*. It is less comprehensive than these, and the contributors, though numerous, are scarcely so representative, for we miss from among them the names of the chief German authorities on diseases of children. Still, such names as those of Neumann, Engel, Camerer, Stöltzner, Noorden, Pirquet, Bokay, Fischl and Thiemich are sufficiently well known, though of the body of contributors as a whole it may be said that they represent the

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\(^1\) *Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, October 1907.
younger school of German workers, particularly that which is associated with South Germany and Austria.

The principal article in vol. i. is an elaborate catalogue raisonné of symptoms. Opinions will differ as to the value of such a set of tables, but, granting that its utility justifies the labour its production entails and the space it requires, it would be difficult to pick holes in this one, which has been compiled by Pfaundler. We shall again have to speak of the translators' work, but it must be remarked here that the tables have suffered considerably in the process of translation. The original is a triumph of the printer's art, and by the use of varied type, and careful punctuation and bracketing, the "symptomatology," though a perfect mosaic of details, is comparatively easily followed. In the English version little use has been made of such artifices; the punctuation is careless, and the headings have not always been closely adhered to—all to the detriment of the intelligibility of the section. Other articles follow on general pathology and treatment, and then comes an important section on metabolism and nutrition. Raudnitz contributes the article on milk, Engel that on the breast and suckling, while Camerer treats of metabolism and feeding during the first year. In discussing artificial feeding he adheres to the view now generally gaining ground, that the indigestibility of casein has in the past been overestimated. He lays more weight than usual on the caloric value of food as a guide to quantity. We do not find any stress laid on the indigestibility of fat, nor reference to Czerny and Keller's theory that over-feeding with milk is a specially fertile cause of malnutrition. On the whole, the methods of artificial feeding advised here are not very different to those in vogue in England. The contents of the second volume cover diseases of the newly-born infant, and general blood and infectious diseases. Knopfelmacher, speaking of birth palsy, dismisses the surgical treatment of Erb's paralysis with a word. Apparently operative measures have not come into vogue in Germany. Undoubtedly one of the weak points of the book is the extent to which English and American work is ignored. With some exceptions, the contributors, on the whole, show comparative ignorance of English pediatric literature. The subject of blood diseases, entrusted to Japha, is dealt with in an up-to-date and satisfactory manner. Stareck contributes an account of scorbutus, and Stöltzner one of rickets; both are sound, reliable articles. Passing over the papers on the exanthemata, we come to Ibrahim's description of acute articular rheumatism. From this we derive the impression that rheumatism, as seen in Germany, differs to some extent from the disease we know here. As we meet with it, the visceral manifestations predominate so much over the joint affection, that the title of Ibrahim's paper sounds to our ears inadequate. In the text the disease is described as an acute polyarthritis in which visceral complications may ensue; there is
nothing to indicate that a child may suffer from the severest rheumatism with scarcely an aching joint. Subcutaneous nodules we have always understood to be rather rare in Germany—still it is a surprise to read that "over forty cases have been reported." It would be easy enough to collect forty or more cases in a year in Edinburgh alone, where the condition is comparatively infrequent as compared with London. Chronic polyarthritis is described under the general heading, chronic articular rheumatism, and is divided into (1) cases complicating acute rheumatism (this apparently including what we know as acute rheumatoid arthritis), and (2) primary chronic arthritis (Anglice, chronic rheumatoid arthritis and Still's disease). It is admitted that the relationship of these diseases is very obscure. Hochsinger's article on congenital syphilis is singularly good, and well worthy of study.

In vol. iii. diseases of the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems, and thyroid gland are considered. What will probably strike English readers as most novel is the description of the group of diseases with which we are all too familiar, and of which diarrhoea and atrophy are the chief symptoms. Fully to repeat the author's argument would enervate unduly on our space, and it must suffice to say that he (Fischl) follows Czerny in attributing most of these disorders to injuries caused by artificial feeding, particularly with cow's milk and starchy foods. Bacterial contamination, the use of sterilised foods, morbid changes in the bowel, are all found inadequate to explain the nature of these cases. The standpoint taken up will be quite new to most readers, and if one is not disposed to agree in all respects with the new theory, it at least provides matter for thought. In his paper on pyloric stenosis Pfaundler gives credit to Thomson and other English observers for bringing the disease into notice. He draws a clear distinction between hypertrophy of the pylorus and spasm, a matter upon which confusion apparently still exists in some minds. His conservative attitude towards operation will, we fancy, meet with the general approval of those who have studied the disease. In the article upon diseases of the thyroid, descriptions of infantilism, mongolism and achondroplasia are included. The first of these receives but short notice, and the article is practically an uncritical repetition of the views of Brissaud and Hertoghe. The account of mongolism takes no account of all the work which has been done in this country. For some reason this type of imbecility has escaped the notice of German physicians until within quite recent years, and they have still a good deal of leeway to make up in their knowledge of it. The description given here is rather superficial, and the statement that mongols react in a very striking manner to thyroid treatment cannot be supported by our experience in this country.

Vol. iv. is devoted to diseases of the nervous system, urinary organs, and skin. Thiemich's article on functional nervous diseases is par-
ticularly good. We would note as a distinct advance on current teaching the grouping together of the convulsive disorders of infants under the general title of Spasmophilia, with its underlying increased galvanic excitability of the nervous system. A good description of the skin diseases of children brings this elaborate system to a conclusion.

In this review we have selected for comment passages which are of interest from the point of view of English work; of the book in general we must add that, considering the number of collaborators, a very high average level of merit is attained, and that the editing has been most successful in the way of preventing overlapping. The book is profusely illustrated, many of the plates being coloured, and on its pictorial side it reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. It is, therefore, both an important and a useful treatise, and we are sorry that we cannot speak in terms of praise of the English version. Neither translators, editors, nor proof readers have done their parts well. We are not concerned with mere inelegance of phraseology; what we object to is that many passages are unintelligible simply by failing to repeat what the original text says. For instance: "It is now agreed that the cases in question [i.e. of pyloric stenosis] show a true pathological change of the stomach wall, and not simply a higher degree of a persistent contracted condition. In order to prove this, two things are necessary; first, that a limited elongation of the pyloric wall does not have this effect. According to all general observations, this condition relaxes the stomachs of all cadavers, even those resembling tumours, which is not the case in the simple systolic stomach" (vol. iii. p. 204). Such a paragraph as this is rather a puzzle; a literal translation is clear enough: "In a given case, a definite opinion that there is not a marked degree of a persistent state of contraction, but a true pathological change in the stomach wall (such as is implied in the expression 'hypertrophic pyloric stenosis') can at present only be formed by ascertaining (1) that a definitely measured amount of stretching of the pyloric wall, such as, according to experience, will relax any systolic stomach however tumour-like it may appear has not this effect." Many comparable examples could be given. As instance of minor errors, which an intelligent proof reader ought to have "queried," we may point to a table on p. 290, vol. iv., rendered quite incomprehensible by the omission of the signs for kathode and anode, and a prescription for syphilis (vol. ii. p. 563) in which the dose of protiode of mercury is given as from 3 to 5 grains. One cannot absolve the editors from carelessness in passing over mistakes of this kind, and we have, in addition, to protest against their having sanctioned the omission of the really useful bibliographies appended to each chapter in the original. In the possession of marginal rubries, and in the relegation of minor matters to small print, and in the typography generally, the German edition is far ahead of the English one,
and we regret that those responsible for the production of this English version have not succeeded in accomplishing their task in the workmanlike manner it deserved.

_Tuberculosis in Infancy and Childhood: Its Pathology, Prevention and Treatment._ By Various Writers. Edited by T. N. Kelynack, M.D., M.R.C.P.(Lond.). Pp. 376. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1908. Price 12s. 6d. nett.

The editor of this book points out in his introductory remarks that in the anti-tuberculosis campaign which has been carried on so energetically of late in England, tuberculosis in childhood has received curiously little attention, and yet probably the majority of tuberculous individuals have acquired their infection in early life. The way in which children become infected and how they can be prevented doing so are questions which certainly require further study, and "it is the aim and object of this volume of collective articles on 'Tuberculosis in Infancy and Childhood' to present in convenient and readily accessible form all available facts, theories and suggestions bearing in any way on the problem." The object of the work is praiseworthy, and the way in which it has been carried out reflects credit on the editor and his contributors.

The book consists of 39 articles, not all of equal merit, by 42 writers; and gives in a fairly representative way the different views on the subject at present held. While the various chapters are too numerous to discuss in detail, we may give some idea of the scope of the work by merely mentioning some of the subjects dealt with. Tuberculous disease is described as it occurs in different situations in the body, such as the nose and throat, larynx, ears, cervical glands, lungs, bronchial glands, pleura, abdomen, skin, urinary tract, nervous system, eye, spine, and other bones and joints. Its prevalence in various countries, including Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, America and elsewhere, and among London School children is discussed; also its occurrence in anti-natal life, in orphans, and among the mentally defective. The importance, in its prevention and treatment, of the milk supply, of exercise, of climatic conditions, of medicines, and of tuberculin, is also dealt with. The general subject of its prevention and arrest is considered in a long and interesting chapter by the editor. The list of the authors includes such well-known names as A. D. Blackadder, Calmette (of Lille), J. A. Coutts, Emmett Holt, Robert Jones, Leslie Mackenzie, D. Newman, R. W. Philip, G. A. Wright and many others.

The volume is a useful and interesting one, and has appeared most opportunely. It is well got up, and its value is much enhanced by its excellent indices.
The Care and Nursing of the Insane. By Percy J. Baily. Pp. 265. London: The Scientific Press, Ltd. 1908.

The subject-matter and its arrangement are for the most part excellent, and as “a supplement to the Handbook” might serve a useful purpose in a few isolated instances. But it is greatly to be feared that the book quite overshoots the standard of intelligence among nurses and attendants in asylums. It is written too much in the style in which the author himself thinks, and in places there is a total disregard for the degree of education of those for whom it is avowedly written. It is often quite elaborate in detail, though lucidity, in places, is sacrificed to literary style. A few examples may serve to show:—Nucleus is described as “a differentiated particle;” “superimposed upon” is used for placed; “interstices” for spaces; “exercises considerable pressure” for presses heavily; while “dimensions in space” represents the much simpler term directions. From the description of “cradles” on page 105 it is more than likely that the non-surgical mind can only picture the familiar article pertaining to the nursery!

Part II.—Nursing the Sick—is excellent in matter, though in recommending oil or glycerine for lubricating rubber tubing the author may be unaware of their disadvantages as compared with soap solution; while in saying that the “rectum inclines backwards from the anus” he perpetuates a not uncommon error on an anatomical point which does not require to be raised.

Part III.—On the Germ Theory of Disease—is, both on account of its matter and terminology, quite beyond the asylum nurse, and one might readily picture her utter bewilderment when told that “formaldehyde is readily generated by volatilising special tabloids!”

Part IV.—The Symptoms of Disease and their Observation and Significance—is complete and very practical, but occasionally marred by the use of highly technical expressions, and it certainly seems fastidious, in taking the temperature, to insist upon “cutting short the hair which grows in the armpit!”

Part V.—The Mind and its Diseases—occupies only 20 out of the 265 pages, and starts off with an intricate and not quite relevant dissertation on amnesia. Only 8 pages are devoted to “Insanity,” and not a single paragraph exists on mental nursing or the duties of nurses and attendants.

If the book is to serve any useful purpose it must be revised with scrupulous care in choice of words and simple mode of expression, and a special chapter or part be added to justify its title of “The Care and Nursing of the Insane.”
Mental Deficiency (Amentia). By A. F. Tredgold, L.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1908.

The subject of mental deficiency is one of great interest and importance to the educationalist and sociologist. It is the medical man, however, who is really most concerned with the matter, for these cases are taken to him over and over again, long before they are fit to go to school or come under the notice of the public. A practical book on the subject like this, therefore, deserves a hearty welcome from the medical profession.

Dr. Tredgold gives a thoughtful and interesting account of the various forms and degrees of amentia in all their aspects, and discusses, in turn, their incidence, causation, pathology, classification, mental and physical characteristics, social relationships, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. The book contains a large number of clinical photographs and many interesting tables and charts.

Although it has long been known that the weak minded constitute quite a considerable proportion of the population, it is only recently, since the appearance of the Report of the Royal Commission of 1904, that there have been data for a reasonably accurate estimate to be formed on the subject. From these it appears that there are probably about 138,529 mentally defective persons in England and Wales, that is, 1 to every 248 of the general population. The condition, therefore, is rather commoner than ordinary insanity.

Far the most important element in the causation of mental defect is, according to Dr. Tredgold, a neurotic heredity. Like most recent writers, he attributes a comparatively small influence to alcohol and tuberculosis. The effect of birth injuries has, he thinks, been much overrated.

The chapter on Pathology is an interesting and important one. It is evidently the result of much original research as well as reading. The classification used is a modification of Dr. Ireland's well-known scheme, though it differs from it in various particulars.

After a consideration of the physical characters of amentia, including a discussion of the significance of the so-called stigmata of degeneration, a long and interesting chapter is devoted to its nervous and mental characteristics. In this the various intellectual processes in the mentally defective are analysed and discussed. The different degrees of mental weakness are then dealt with, ranging from the slighter forms which are within the sphere of the "Special Schools," to the cases of profound idiocy that are incapable of any instruction.

The clinical and pathological features of the different forms of disease of which mental defect is an essential symptom are then described; and such conditions as microcephalus, mongolism, spastic diplegia, chronic hydrocephalus, syphilitic brain disease, infantile
cerebral degeneration, cretinism, &c., are given in detail and illustrated by accounts of cases and portraits of patients.

The relation of the mentally defective to society and their position in the eye of the law are clearly described, and there is a chapter on the Incidence of Insanity in Imbeciles. Two of the best chapters in the book are those on Diagnosis and Prognosis and on Treatment and Training.

Dr. Tredgold's book is admirable in every respect. It is founded on thorough knowledge of its important subject, in its pathological, sociological and clinical aspects; and it imparts the results of his wide experience and knowledge of literature in a clear, sensible and interesting way.

Ophthalmic Surgery. By Josef Meller, First University Assistant, University Eye Clinic, Vienna. Translation reviewed by Walter L. Pyle, M.D., U.S.A. London: Rebman, Ltd. 1908. Price 13s.

Any contribution to ophthalmology from Professor Fuchs's clinic is always welcome. The present volume is a handbook of the surgical operations on the eyeball and its appendages as practised at Professor Fuchs's clinic in Vienna. English-speaking ophthalmologists everywhere must be greatly indebted to Dr. Meller for describing in detail the most important ophthalmic operations as they are practised by his illustrious chief. The work throughout is beautifully illustrated, and is sure to command a place on the bookshelves of every ophthalmic surgeon.

Chapters I., II., and III. deal with the operations for extirpation of the lachrymal sac as practised by Dr. Meller himself, and also with excision of the lachrymal gland. Every step of the operations is fully and carefully described, the complications likely to arise being dealt with, together with the indications for resection of the sac.

Doubtless every ophthalmic surgeon of experience has his own special methods, &c., in operating, and it would be hopeless to expect unanimity in every detail. Exception must be taken, e.g. to the graduated method of probing recommended; it is certainly contrary to the practice generally adopted by British surgeons.

Chapters IV. to VII. are devoted to the operations for trichiasis, entropion, ectropion and ptosis. The Jaesche-Arlt operation with transplantation of skin is not in favour, because fresh irritation is said to be set up by the fine lanugo hairs. This is not our experience. Non-pedunculated flaps are not recommended in plastic operations, for reasons with which we entirely agree. Thiersch's grafting, we are surprised to find, is not referred to, although it is a most excellent method. Iodoform dressing
is greatly in vogue in Vienna, and the eye is dressed always on the day following operation, to see that the cornea has not been injured during the operation. Iodoform in the days of “asepsis” is superfluous, and we cannot see how the cornea could be injured in a carefully performed operation such as one invariably sees in this famous clinic. Further, frequent dressings may be injurious, however carefully done, as the graft is in danger of being displaced. With regard to the operations recommended for ptosis, we think it would be advantageous to have included some of the other well-known operations which give equally good results.

In Chapter VIII. the operations for strabismus are described. We take exception to the method of performing the operation of tenotomy, for, in our opinion, it is not the best method available. Enucleation of the eyeball is detailed in Chapter IX. Mules’s operation, with implantation of glass ball, is not performed in Fuchs's clinic, because sympathetic inflammation has been observed repeatedly after this operation. This is not the usual experience.

Plastic operations are found fully described in Chapter X.

Chapters XI. to XIV. are devoted to cataract operations. The position of the operator, sitting in front of his patient, must appear awkward to British operators. No speculum is used in cataract extraction nor in iridectomy for glaucoma, the eyelids being held apart by an assistant. With this method there may be some advantage if the operator can depend on his assistant, but it must be remembered that the assistant’s fingers may not be aseptic, whereas the speculum can always be made aseptic. We see, moreover, no reason for an assistant at a cataract operation, except perhaps in exceptional cases—the fewer hands the better. The opening of the capsule is always done by means of a capsule forceps, because “after cataract” is said to be less commonly found than when the cystotome is employed. We do not like expression of the lens by pressure through the lower eyelid because of the danger of infection through the openings of the Meibomian glands. A binocular bandage is employed—a method inferior, in our opinion, to the single dressing for psychological and other reasons. Preliminary iridectomy is not recommended, but the combined operation is practised. Excellent rules are laid down for extraction of intra-ocular foreign bodies, and useful information is given with regard to anaesthesia and assistance. As we have already stated, it would be impossible for any surgeon of experience to agree with another’s operative technique in every respect, and we therefore refrain from further criticism; nevertheless we have here a most valuable addition to the literature of ophthalmology, and we most heartily recommend its careful perusal to all who practise ophthalmic surgery.
Essentials of Surgery. By Alwyne T. Compton, F.R.C.S. Pp. 428. London: Henry Kimpton. 1908.

This is one of the class of books in which the chief object is to condense the essential facts of the larger text-books to a bulk which can be grasped by the student on the eve of an examination. One can often recognise the author who has been chiefly consulted on any given subject, but that is no fault in a book of which originality is not the object. The selection and condensation have been carefully and judiciously carried out, and one has, generally speaking, little fault to find in respect of accuracy of information. The illustrations do not pretend to be more than diagrams, and most of them are quite useful; but we think that some of those representing microscopical appearances might be omitted without loss. The book has been compiled in a way which raises it to a much higher plane than the average "cram" book.

Diseases of the Eye. By Stephen Mayou, F.R.C.S. 119 Illustrations 8 Colour Plates. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. Price 5s.

This is an elementary manual intended to serve as a short and practical guide for students and practitioners. The scope, size and general style of the book appear well suited to the purpose.

The external diseases of the eye are well described and suitably illustrated, most of the illustrations being from original drawings and micro-photographs. The chapter on Elementary Optics and Refraction, pp. 1-64, is not satisfactory: too many of the statements are not quite accurate.

In an appendix the author gives a series of useful prescriptions, and the usual statement of the vision required for the public services.

An Atlas of Skiagrams, Illustrating the Development of the Teeth, with Explanatory Text. By Johnson Symington, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy, Queen's College, Belfast, and J. C. Rankin, M.D., Physician in Charge of the Electrical Department, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. London, New York, Bombay and Calcutta: Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row. 1908. All rights reserved. Price 10s. 6d. nett.

The negatives of the skiagrams, reproduced in this Atlas, were the subject of a lantern demonstration by Professor Symington at the meeting of the British Dental Association in Belfast last year, and again at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association at Sheffield, and on both occasions the audience expressed keen appreciation of their excellence and their educational value.
It is therefore not to be wondered at that they have been published for the benefit of a wider public, and everyone interested in the subject, especially the dental surgeon, is under a debt of gratitude to the authors for doing so. Having had an opportunity of examining very critically the negatives themselves, the reviewer can testify to the accuracy with which the detail is reproduced; in fact, the plates reflect the highest credit upon the firm which is responsible for them.

There are twelve plates, comprising twenty-three figures, and, to quote from the Introduction, "A practically complete history of the calcification of each tooth, whether temporary or permanent, will be found recorded in the plates of this Atlas." There are also five drawings from dissections of the maxillary sinus at different ages, showing its size, shape, and relationship to the teeth and the neighbouring accessory sinuses of the nose. In addition, a short and accurate description of each plate is given on the opposite page.

This Atlas will be of value to the practitioner who is daily making more and more use of the X-rays in the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal conditions of the teeth and jaws.

The authors and the publishers alike are to be congratulated upon the production of a work which is a welcome addition to medical literature.

Extraction of Teeth. By F. Coleman, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.D.S.

Pp. 158. London: H. K. Lewis. 1908. Price 3s.

In the work of the medical practitioner, at least in the country, the extraction of teeth may play a very considerable part, while he is little concerned with the more conservative side of dental surgery. This book, which deals only with extraction, should therefore be of great value to him, apart altogether from its value to the dentist. Without wasting space on unnecessary physiological details, the author describes the indications for extraction, the general rules, their application to the various teeth, and the forceps employed. He deals with various complications, accidents and sequelae, along with their treatment, especially that of haemorrhage. The technique of local analgesia in dentistry is detailed; and the indications for the various forms of general anaesthesia are given, though the actual procedure in inducing general anaesthesia is very properly left to books on that subject. The book is simply and clearly written, and can be fully recommended.

Landmarks and Surface Markings of the Human Body. By Louis Bathe Rawling, Assistant-Surgeon, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Third Edition. London: H. R. Lewis. 1908. Price 5s.

It would be difficult to estimate the number of men who are indebted to Mr. Rawling for the help he has afforded them in acquiring a know-
ledge of the landmarks and surface markings of the body. This, the
third edition of his manual, merits even a greater appreciation than
its predecessors, because, while new illustrations have been added, the
text has been scrupulously adhered to.

The Edinburgh Stereoscopic Atlas of Obstetrics. Edited by G. F. Barbour
Simpson, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E., and Edward Burnet,
B.A., M.B., Ch.B. With a Preface by Sir J. Halliday Croom.
Section II. Twenty-five Subjects. The Caxton Publishing Co.
1908. Four Sections, 84s.

PART II. of this work deals with a variety of subjects in connection
with the Anatomy of the Soft Parts of the Female Pelvis, and with
the Anatomy and Physiology of Pregnancy.

The stereograms of the anatomical dissections of the perineum, of
the interior of the pelvis, and of the pelvic contents as viewed from
behind, are, we think, disappointing, and the student will, we fear,
require more than the explanatory text to enable him to fully under-
stand them. He will have no such difficulty with the plates of the
dissections of the soft parts at the brim and of the familiar sagittal
section of the adult female pelvis and pelvic viscera. These are
excellent, and show very clearly the superiority of stereoscopic over
ordinary illustration.

The authors have been fortunate in getting an excellent series
of specimens of the pregnant uterus at the 3rd week, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ month,
3rd month, 4th month and 8th month of pregnancy. In most of
these a partial dissection has been made, and the relations of the
parts stand out very clearly under the stereoscope. Special reference
may be made to the stereogram of the 8th month pregnancy, which
shows very beautifully the normal Attitude and Presentation of the
fetus in utero at this period in the R.O.P. Position.

The descriptive letterpress, while of necessity concise, is always
clear and accurate, and a great deal of valuable practical information
is contained in it. We question, however, if the authors are right in
recommending that the conjugate diameter of the brim of the pelvis
should be measured by introducing the fingers of the left hand into the
vagina. Why not use the right hand? The risk of mistaking some
unduly prominent ridge on the sacrum for the promontory itself will,
we think, be increased if that hand is not used with which the student
is accustomed to make his vaginal examinations.

The authors are to be congratulated on the success with which they
have overtaken this—which we consider must be the most difficult
section of their atlas—and on the practical interest they have imparted
to it.
Diseases of the Skin: An Outline of the Principles and Practice of Dermatology. By Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O. New and Enlarged Edition. Pp. 686. Cassell & Co. 1908.

Morris's Diseases of the Skin has deservedly attained a well-established place among the treatises on cutaneous literature. The imprimatur of public opinion has been unmistakably passed on it, since we have now a fourth edition subsequent to its first appearance fourteen years ago; one enlarged, corrected, and in many ways improved. Outwardly the bright blue binding has been replaced by green, while the paper itself has a faint tinge of the same hue, lessening the glare. In style it is always forcible; the descriptions are clear, the diagnostic points duly accentuated, the treatment suggested rational and cautious—the outcome of a wide experience. Were we to offer criticism on some impressions gained during a perusal, we think that the account of the morbid anatomy of the skin, of the primary and secondary lesions in particular, does not reach the level of the remainder of the book, either in definiteness or in strict accuracy, and in a future edition might be amended and amplified with considerable advantage. Some of the formulae surely need correction. That for cold cream, on page 60, would result in a thin emulsion, while four grains of chloral hydrate in six ounces of spirits of wine is a very small proportion for a stimulant hair lotion. We cannot agree with the author that the hairs in sycosis are easily pulled out, even when the suppurative process has gone on for some time, or that tinea barbae is distinguished from sycosis by the pain caused by extraction of the hair, pages 394, 395. In fact, in our experience, extraction of hair is always a painful process in sycosis, while in tinea barbae the diseased hairs become so loose in the follicle that they can be lifted out. In this way, indeed, the spontaneous cure of tinea barbae comes about. The black and white illustrations are of varying degrees of merit, and while three-fourths of the coloured are representative, that of pityriasis rubra pilaris is not typical, and that of acanthosis nigricans is indistinct. No doubt in both cases there are supplementary woodcuts. The revision, however, has been carefully and conscientiously carried out, and the contents have been well brought up to date. Thus there is a succinct account of sporotrichosis, and the spirochaetes of syphilis and yaws find adequate recognition. The work is one singularly well adapted to the requirements both of the student and the general practitioner.

Applied Physiology: A Handbook for Students of Medicine. By Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 298. London: Edwin Arnold. 1908. Price 7s. 6d.

For some years past the opinion has been growing that some of the physiology taught to medical students is in excess of their require-
ments, and has too often little or no bearing upon the problems which will meet them later on in the study and practice of medicine. In an already crowded curriculum this is a matter of considerable importance, and it is felt that any curtailment of the subject must be at the expense of the more theoretical parts which have no immediate application to medicine. Dr. Hutchison's book is an attempt—the first of its kind—to indicate what physiological facts are thus capable of practical application. It appears, therefore, at an opportune moment, and will be read with great interest, for no one is better qualified than the author to look at the subject both from the point of view of the physiologist and from the side of the clinician. One feels that his treatment of the subject will be impartial and comprehensive.

The author in his preface remarks upon the small size of the volume, necessitated by the paucity of the facts of physiology. The reader will probably be equally surprised at the amount of information the book does contain; it is replete with facts from beginning to end, and were the methods described by which these facts have been arrived at, the volume would take its place bravely among the none too slender textbooks of physiology. Such a book might indeed prove the very thing needed for students of medicine. The intentional omission of the applied physiology of the nervous system and special senses is a matter of regret. It is true that the physiology of these is far from complete, but there are many well-established facts that have wide clinical bearings. An adequate treatment of them certainly presents great difficulties, but these are not insuperable, and it is to be hoped that in a subsequent edition these subjects will be included.

The book is especially designed for medical students, but, containing as it does an up-to-date account of facts having practical applications to medicine, it will prove of service to the busy practitioner who has neither time nor opportunities to cull from current literature the more useful advances made in physiology. The material is somewhat condensed in places, and consequently less readily followed by the beginner, but as the volume is intended to act as a companion to, and not as a substitute for, a textbook of physiology, this does not matter so much. The chapter upon Digestion strikes one as particularly useful. The author's opinion is not always clearly expressed; e.g. one cannot gather from the text whether the arrangement of food as at dinner—meats first, carbohydrates last—or as in the American breakfast—cereals first, meat last—is being recommended as physiologically correct.

All parts of the book bear evidence of careful preparation and of an extensive knowledge of physiological literature by the author. Such a work has long been needed, and is very welcome at the present juncture.
**Military Hygiene: A Manual of Sanitation for Soldiers.** By Lieut. Colonel R. H. Firth, R.A.M.C. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1908. Price 2s. 6d..

This little manual, written in plain lucid terms, is intended for the instruction of officers and men of the army on the general principles for the preservation of health. Technical terms have been avoided as much as possible, and the subject rendered easily comprehensible.

Under Army Order 3 of 1908, sanitation is made a compulsory subject for promotion to the rank of captain, and the book will be in the hands of every subaltern in the service. We may therefore hope that the commanding officer of the future will have a serviceable knowledge of the laws governing preventable sickness, and be anxious to assist the sanitary officer in his efforts to render the army more efficient by the prevention of disease.

We congratulate Colonel Firth on the production of a sound practical work which may be read with profit by officers and men alike, and should find a place in every mess and regimental library in the service.

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**Fads and Feeding.** By C. Stanford Read, M.B.(Lond.), &c. Pp. 163. London: Methuen & Co.

Dr. Read has had “the general reader” in view in the composition of this little book. He is strong on bringing common-sense to bear on the question of diet, and he puts his points in plain language. He is prepared to accept Chittenden’s results as to the amount of proteid allowable. It is many years since Lauder Brunton tried to show that an ordinary English dinner of many courses was physiologically correct in the order of the various kinds of food, and Dr. Read has a similar commentary, but it is surely a little fanciful to say that the fish comes before the joint “in order to prepare the stomach for harder work to come.” In the sixteen chapters a large field is traversed, and we have such headings as Vegetarianism, “Non-Uric Acid” Diet, Fletcherism, and Other Dietetic Fads. The chapter on Alcohol presents a case very strongly adverse to its prevalent mode of consumption. Altogether the book is one which may be safely commended to patients seeking guidance in matters dietetic.