Pseudocoxalgia (The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, January, 1925).—(a) George Perkins, M.D., gives “A critical survey of the congenital theory,” more particularly that postulated by Jansen, and comes to the conclusion that Dr. Mark Jansen’s theory of flattened hip socket cannot be accepted. The paper is illustrated by a series of skiagrams, and is followed by a reply by Dr. Jansen.

(b) Thomas P. Noble, M.D., F.R.C.S., summarises the present position of our knowledge regarding pseudocoxalgia, and discusses the three hypotheses that have been advanced with regard to the causation of this disease—(1) congenital, (2) infectious, (3) traumatic. He considers that no one of these hypotheses seems adequate to explain the etiology in all cases, and that it seems highly probable that two of the factors may be involved; inherent congenital weakness at the epiphyseal line and trauma. The various phases of the disease are described, and the treatment suggested as most satisfactory is fixation in a spica cast in slight abduction for six months, followed by massage and muscle training.—Matthew White.

Regional and Field Block Anaesthesia (The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, January, 1925).—C. F. Eikenbary and M. Langworthy report on a series of 164 regional anaesthesias, covering almost every type of operation on the extremities. Novocain was used exclusively, and the patients were of all ages, except young children. Of 38 brachial plexus blocks, only one, a fracture manipulation, required gas. Of 51 sciatic and internal saphenous blocks, perfect anaesthesia was obtained in 48. Of 71 field blocks, 70 gave perfect anaesthesia. The anaesthesia in 4 combined sciatic, external femoral cutaneous, anterior crural, and obturator nerve block was also perfect. For certain types of case this form of anaesthesia has a definite place, and in bone operations there is a remarkable absence of shock.—Matthew White.

The Metabolism in Arthritis (The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, January, 1925).—A. W. Rowe and R. S. Hunt report on a study of “The influence of high frequency currents on certain phases of general metabolism.” The contents of their paper may be summarised as follows:—

1. A study of the influence of the high frequency electric current, using the so-called “auto-condensation” method of application is recorded. This comprises blood and urine studies, together with the basal metabolism records of groups of normal controls and of arthritic subjects.
2. Various effects are observed which are apparently ascribable to the influence of the electrical stimulation, and which disappear with the cessation of its use, except in certain acute conditions where the improvement is apparently progressive and lasting.

3. Among the changes may be noted—(a) a diminution in the nitrogenous constituents of the blood; (b) an increase in the nitrogen and sulphur of the urine; (c) the general elimination by the kidneys reflects the changes shown by nitrogen and sulphur. The phthalein test is an exception, no changes being noted.

4. The basal metabolic rate decreases during the treatment period, and only in the control group does it return to the pre-treatment level.

5. The blood-sugar concentrations in the arthritic group show changes proportional to their initial level.

The weight of the evidence offered seems to indicate a possible improvement in cellular function, conditioning a possible improvement in absorption, a probable increase in tissue metabolism, and a certain improvement in kidney permeability. These changes persist only during the period of electrical stimulation except in those cases where an acute process exists.

—MATTHEW WHITE.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, &c., RECEIVED.

The Practical Medicine Series, comprising eight volumes on the Year's Progress in Medicine and Surgery, under the general editorial charge of Charles L. Mix, A.M., M.D. Volume II: General Surgery, edited by Albert J. Ochsner, M.D., F.R.M.S., LL.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.I. Series 1924. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers. ($3.00; series eight volumes, $15.00.)

An Introduction to Practical Bacteriology as Applied to Medicine and Public Health: A Guide to Bacteriological Laboratory Work for Students and Practitioners of Medicine, by T. J. Mackie, M.D.Glasg., D.P.H.Oxford, and J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc.Edin. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1925. (8s. net.)

Handbook of Bacteriology for Students and Practitioners of Medicine, by Joseph W. Bigger, M.D.Dublin, F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H. London: Bâllière, Tindall & Cox. 1925. (12s. 6d. net.)

A Contribution to the Study of Pernicious Anæmia and Aplastic Anæmia, by Arthur Shearer, M.D. A Thesis presented for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine in The University of Leeds, December, 1923. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1924. (7s. net.)

Acute Infectious Diseases: A Handbook for Practitioners and Students, by J. D. Rolleston, M.A., M.D.Oxon. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1925. (12s. 6d. net.)

Handbook of Operative Surgery, by Sir William Ireland de C. Wheeler (Mod.), B.A., M.D.Dub.Univ., F.R.C.S.I., F.A.C.S.Hon. Fourth edition. London: Bâllière, Tindall & Cox. 1925. (15s. net.)