NEW BOOKS.

Operative Surgery. By Edward H. Taylor, Professor of Surgery in the University of Dublin (Head and Neck, Thorax and Abdomen). Pp. xi. + 524. With 300 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1914. Price 30s. net.

We are not paying the author a conventional compliment when we offer him our hearty congratulations on the appearance of his new work on operative surgery. It is a contribution to surgical literature which reflects credit on British surgery as a whole, and which will maintain, and even enhance, the high reputation of the Dublin School of Surgery. Professor Taylor, wisely we think, has limited himself to the operations which are most frequently required in general surgical practice, and has given a detailed and consecutive description of these in such a way as to furnish a reliable guide to the student in a course of operative surgery, or to the young surgeon in the earlier days of his operative work. To the experienced surgeon also the work is of value, as it reflects the practice of one who has obviously devoted considerable attention to practical details, and who has selected his methods after carefully weighing the merits of the various procedures recommended by his confrères. Short commentaries are appended to many of the descriptions, and alternative methods are frequently suggested and criticised. While the author describes at length the particular operation he personally prefers, he is in no sense dogmatic in his teaching.

If we were to select any sections for special praise, they would be those on the skull and brain and those on abdominal surgery, but such discrimination is perhaps invidious, as the whole work is of outstanding merit.

It is impossible to avoid making special reference to the illustrations. The majority of these are drawn from Nature by Mr. James T. Murray, which sufficiently bespeaks their anatomical accuracy and artistic excellence. In the production of the volume the publishers have risen to the high standard set by the author and artist.

We trust that Professor Taylor will be encouraged to deal with the operative surgery of the extremities in a subsequent volume and so complete one of the best treatises in the English language.

Indispensable Orthopaedics. By F. Calot. Translated from the Sixth French Edition by A. H. Robinson and Louis Nicole. Pp. 1175. With 1260 Illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1914. Price 21s. net.

The somewhat unusual title of this work furnishes a clue to the spirit in which it is written. It is essentially dogmatic, and whatever the
author has to say on the subject is "indispensable." It begins with "The Hexalogue, or the six commandments of orthopaëdics: (1) Early diagnosis; (2) immediate treatment; (3) perseverance in treatment; (4) the preparation of well-fitting plasters; (5) in the correction of tuberculous deformities to reduce traumatism to a minimum; (6) to guard against operating upon the tuberculoses; never to open cold abscesses, but to puncture and inject them." Each of these dicta is then elaborated with a wealth of leaded and italic type which almost carries conviction.

Then follows a chapter, extending to nearly 100 pages, on "Indispensable Notions on the Preparation of a Plaster," in which no detail is too small to be excluded; even the method of putting on a new stocking is fully described and illustrated. It must be confessed that this long chapter contains a great deal that is most useful with regard to the application of plaster bandages and cases, but we venture to think we could have dispensed with some of the elaboration.

The third chapter deals with "The Technique of Punctures and Injections." The author mercifully gives a summary of the technique, with a footnote to the effect that "If you are pressed for time, content yourself with reading this summary . . . returning later to the reading of the entire chapter." We must add, however, that the reading of the entire chapter well repays the time spent on it.

Needless to say, the subsequent chapters devoted to the treatment of tuberculous lesions and the deformities resulting therefrom are full of valuable information, based on the author's exceptional experience of these conditions.

Non-tuberculous deformities are also dealt with, and the author's individuality is always in evidence. This is how he begins his description of the local treatment of scoliosis by medical gymnastics: "Oh! do not be afraid, it is very simple. You need not have been born at Stockholm, nor assume an inspired look, to know that a curved arc is reduced by traction on its two extremities and by pressure made on its convexity."

The author is all against operation for tuberculous cervical adenitis, and makes out a very good case for his attitude. This section may be commended to those who favour extensive dissections in spite of their resultant scars and recurrences.

Altogether we have found this a most stimulating book. It is not always possible to agree with the author, but at least he compels one to think before disagreeing, and the result is usually an approximation to his views and a resolve to try his methods.

It only remains to be said that the translators have succeeded admirably in retaining the lightness of touch of the original.
Abdominal Surgery: Clinical Lectures for Students and Physicians. By Thorkild Rovsing, Copenhagen. Edited by Paul Monroe Pilcher, New York. Pp. xii.+477. With 136 Illustrations. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1914. Price 21s. net.

In this volume we have a series of twenty-five clinical lectures, for the most part dealing with the surgery of the alimentary canal, which Professor Rovsing has delivered to his class of clinical surgery in the University of Copenhagen. The author has for long occupied a prominent place amongst the great surgeons of Europe, and this presentation of his views on a department of surgery to which he has devoted special attention is of great value. He is happy in the form he has chosen to put forward his opinions, as the clinical lecture lends itself in a special degree to the personal study of disease. Not only have we the living patient before us as we listen, or at least in the mind's eye as we read, but we have the individuality of the teacher directly brought to bear on the problems presented by the case under consideration. Professor Rovsing has avoided the mistake so common in published clinical lectures, of smothering the essential points in the case amongst a mass of unessential details. His clinical histories are short, clear, and to the point, and the reader has no difficulty in carrying them with him as he follows the lecturer's exposition. From his extensive experience he is able to cite numerous typical and atypical cases of each of the conditions he takes up for consideration, and to formulate authoritative opinions on the debatable issues raised.

To the senior student, as well as to the practitioner, this work can be thoroughly recommended. The reading of it is not a task but a recreation.

Diseases of the Kidneys, Ureters, and Bladder, with Special Reference to the Diseases of Women. By Howard A. Kelly, M.D., LL.D., and Curtis F. Burnam, M.D., Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. Vol. I., pp. 582; Vol. II., pp. 652. With 632 Illustrations. New York and London: D. Appleton & Co. 1914. Price 50s. net.

Kelly and Burnam's work on Diseases of the Kidneys, Ureters, and Bladder is an outstanding example of what a good text-book should be; there is not so much science in it that the practical side is lost to view, neither does the practical part lack the scientific details which are necessary for its rational understanding and intelligent application. For instance, there are admirable chapters on the topographical anatomy of the lumbar region, on the embryology of the urogenital apparatus, and on the physiology of the urinary organs, which the strictly practical man may feel tempted to omit; he will do so to his
own great loss. Even the part dealing with embryology should be carefully perused, for if there is one novel fact which emerges from the study of this volume, it is the immense importance for the urologist of the investigation of the development of the organs which he is handling. If anyone incline to doubt this fact, let him read the chapters on embryology and post-fetal development immediately before he studies those on hydronephrosis, polycystic kidney, maldevelopments of kidneys and ureters (especially those of the renal pelvis and ureters), diverticulum and exstrophy of the bladder, and malformations of the urethra, and his hesitation to believe will vanish. So, too, the physiology of the kidneys is in direct practical relationship to the understanding of the new methods of examination of the functional capacity of these organs, by means of cryoscopy and the phenolsulphonphthalein test. On the other side, the surgeon seeking for a thoroughly clear, complete, and yet compact account of any of the diagnostic procedures (e.g. cystoscopy, ureteral catheterisation, X-ray work), or of any of the operations old or new (e.g. for vesical fistula, for malignant tumours of the kidney, or for epispadias and exstrophy), will not be disappointed. There is throughout a full presentation of the most modern methods without the expression of extravagant hopes regarding them, as is well seen, for example, in the chapter in which the surgical treatment of Bright's disease is considered. Max Broedel's fine illustrations play a no inconsiderable part in placing this work in the front rank of books on urology. We have given praise freely to the manual, but we sorrowfully make an exception for one or two slips in style which are most regrettable. Thus Professor Kelly, speaking in the preface of his object in writing these two volumes, says, "No other work has been written which does more than squint at urology from the standpoint of the female sex. We have frankly taken this aspect of the subject as our fundamental position, and have done our squinting in the direction of urological problems in the male." One cannot regard such a passage as happily or clearly phrased; even as a colloquialism it is sadly lacking in grace.

**Diseases of the Labyrinth: A Clinical Study of the Serous and Purulent Diseases of the Labyrinth.** By **Erich Ruttin**, Vienna. Authorised Translation by **Horace Newhart**, M.D., Minnesota, U.S.A. Pp. 230. With 25 Illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1914.

This is by far the best work on diseases of the labyrinth which has appeared up to the present time, and gives the results of the author's wide experience of the clinical aspect and operative treatment of labyrinthitis. As Ruttin himself says, he has watched "this nystagmus business" from the beginning, and for many years has demonstrated
the subject of labyrinthine disease to large classes of post-graduates—indeed the book is only an amplification of his excellent lectures. The first chapter takes up the subject of the functional examination of the ear, and explains the production of nystagmus by rotation and caloric irritation. The explanations and diagrams are exceedingly simple, recalling those of Mr. Hilaire Belloc in regard to the present war. The second chapter deals with the subject of labyrinthitis from the pathological and clinical aspect. One is only sorry that Kuttin did not include reproductions of his beautiful microscopic preparations of labyrinthine suppuration, but perhaps this was hardly to be expected in a book dealing with the clinical aspect of labyrinthitis. In the second chapter we also find the indications for the labyrinth operation and some excellent diagrams showing the technique of this procedure. Chapter III. deals with injuries of the labyrinth, and Chapter IV. with serous-induced labyrinthitis. Chapter V., on labyrinthitis and brain abscess, shows that there is little or no connection between these two conditions, as out of 108 cases of labyrinthitis there were only four with cerebellar abscess and four with abscess of the temporo-sphenoidal lobe. The latter were admittedly not due to labyrinth suppuration. The rest of the volume (132 pages) is occupied with the case records of 108 patients. Each record contains an account of the history, state on admission, results of functional examination, an account of the operation performed, and a detailed after-history of the case. In the fatal cases details of the post-mortem examination are also given. It is interesting to note that of 108 cases 83 were cured and 25 died. Of the cured cases seven were not operated on, in 38 only the radical mastoid operation was performed, and in 38 the labyrinth operation in addition to the radical mastoid. Of the 25 cases in which death occurred only one was not operated on; in five the radical operation alone was performed, and in nineteen the labyrinth operation in addition to the radical. In twelve of the fatal cases the cause of death was purulent meningitis, but in eight of these the meningitis was already present before operation.

On the whole the translation of the work is satisfactory, but "nystagmus to the well side" (p. 94) is not good English—or should we say American?

Practical Medical Electricity. By Alfred C. Norman, M.D., Sunderland. Pp. viii. + 226. With 50 Illustrations. London: The Scientific Press. 1914. Price 5s. net.

Of the smaller manuals on the subject of medical electricity, this one will prove of value to those for whom it appears to have been written—the senior student, the house-surgeon, and the practitioner. It is thoroughly accurate, concise, and up to date. Part I. treats of apparatus and technique, and the relationship between voltage,
ampère, and resistance is carefully and lucidly explained. Part II. deals with X-rays, and the arrangement of this section is rather better than that of the usual text-book on the subject. The book throughout is well written; the chapters are for the most part short and to the point.

A Text-Book of General Embryology. By William G. Kellicott. London: Constable & Co. 1914. Price 10s. 6d. net.
Outlines of Chordate Development. By William G. Kellicott. London: Constable & Co. 1914. Price 10s. 6d. net.

The books whose titles are given above are excellent elementary manuals. The first gives a good description of the general principles underlying embryology, and treats clearly and simply of the structure of the cell and of the germ cell, maturation, fertilisation, and some aspects of heredity.

The second gives the special development of amphioxus, the frog, chick, and some mammals, using these types in the way Rolleston and Huxley and Martin began.

Both can be highly recommended to students as accurate, modern, and well illustrated.

Laboratory Manual of Qualitative Analysis. By A. R. Bliss, Jun., Pp. iv. + 244. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co. 1914. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This book conducts students of medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy through a useful and, on the whole, a judiciously chosen course of elementary qualitative analysis. The reactions of the various cations and anions are clearly stated, and, following the descriptions of the tests for each analytical group, tabular and other instructions of a trustworthy character are given for the separation and identification of the members of the groups. Lists of "compounds and preparations" related to the various metals, etc., form a useful feature, but as many of the substances mentioned are United States Pharmacopœia preparations, they are not all of great importance to students in this country. The inclusion in the index of the substances mentioned in these lists would have rendered the information given about them more easily accessible. A considerable part of the book is printed on one side of the paper only, and, as the paper is of very good quality, the unprinted side is available for students' notes and additions. The American spelling of the word "thru" has an unfamiliar appearance, and there seems to be some want of system in a reformed spelling which includes "oxid," "iodin," and a "deposite." We noted a considerable number of misprints—mostly unimportant.