Osteology is a part of anatomical study apt to prove particularly irksome to the student, and it is at least doubtful if its presentation in this volume will form an exception to the rule. Dr. Bryce, however, if his descriptive method is somewhat conventional, has at least been very thorough, and there is little of importance lacking in these pages on the bones. The descriptions are clear, so far as possible concise, the illustrations are good if not superlatively excellent, and the references numerous, if it be possible, even complete.

While of necessity most of the space available is taken up with descriptions of adult bones, comparative anatomy is by no means neglected; and the development of the bones is considered very carefully, and is well illustrated, both from the foetal skeleton and from x-ray plates. There are, however, some improvements which might be suggested, particularly in those plates illustrating muscular attachment, for, after all, osteology cannot stand alone as a study, and for any adequate understanding of bones a grasp of their relations to muscles is essential.

To some extent, one may say that the same correlation is lacking in the section on arthrology, but here one is more occupied in thinking of the really very beautiful illustrations of joints drawn by Mr. A. K. Maxwell. Of course, the descriptions of the joints and their movements are excellent, and again there are numerous references to the work of various arthrologists; but one cannot recall having anywhere seen more accurate and at the same time artistic illustrations of the
various joints than are the full-page coloured plates in this part of the volume. One might almost say that each fibre of each ligament has been carefully reproduced, and in this, as in other respects, the book shows the enormous amount of careful work lavished upon it. If, however, it were possible to suggest improvement, here and there a plate illustrating the presence of muscles might assist the comprehension of the student.

At the end of the volume is a carefully compiled and well arranged bibliography, which should be of much assistance to the more advanced worker.

This book maintains, and more than maintains, the high standard of former editions; there is in reality little that one can find fault with in either text or illustrations. Perhaps it is not given to anyone to achieve perfection, but when a book reaches such a high standard of excellence as this one does, one is tempted to ask why it should have any faults at all, and to venture to hope that in the next edition perfection may be attained.

Cane Sugar and Heart Disease. By Arthur Goulston, M.D.
London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox. 1914.

In the course of this volume Dr. Goulston enters a very striking plea for the use of cane sugar in the treatment of cardiac failure, and particularly in cases of auricular fibrillation. He points out that a rabbit's heart perfused with a suitable solution of dextrose can be revived after it has ceased to beat for many hours, and shows the vital importance of dextrose in the nutrition of the cardiac musculature. It is thus in myocardial affections that dextrose may be expected to be most useful, but as even in valvular diseases cardiac failure depends ultimately upon exhaustion of the myocardium, the field for the use of dextrose is obviously very large. It must be cane sugar that is used, as beet sugar gives very inferior results, and this Dr. Goulston supposes to depend upon the presence of an activator in the cane sugar that is absent from the beet sugar. The doses he employs are large—from 2 to 4 ounces in the twenty-four hours—but it is very rarely that sugar appears in the urine, and when it does so appear, only traces of it are found. If the taste
of a simple solution, in which it is best given, should cause nausea, it can be masked by flavourings such as ginger. Alcohol and sharp acids should be avoided while the sugar is being taken, the diet should be mainly farinaceous, and diuretics should be used where the urine is scanty.

A wealth of illustrative cases illustrates the value of the treatment in appropriate instances. The results are certainly remarkable, and the method would seem worthy of an extended trial.

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_Materia Medica and Therapeutics._ By J. Mitchell Bruce, M.A., LL.D.(Hon.) Aberd., M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., and Walter J. Dilling, M.B., Ch.B. Aberd. Tenth Edition. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1915.

This well-known book has been revised to correspond with the new B.P., and a section on practical pharmacy has been added which, though short, should certainly be very useful. The book continues to deal quite thoroughly with materia medica proper, but its most striking characteristic is the very clear description given of the actions of the various drugs, and Part III, which deals with general therapeutics, does so in a truly scientific fashion. A thoroughly good book; need one say more? We are all the more pleased to be able to say so, because the joint author happens to be one of the lecturers of the Glasgow school.

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_Materia Medica and Therapeutics—Preventive Medicine and Climatology._ Being Volume VIII of the Practical Medicine Series. Edited by George F. Butler, Ph.G., A.M., M.D.; Henry B. Favell, A.B., M.D.; and Norman Bridge, A.M., M.D. Series 1914. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers.

This is one of a series of ten volumes of the year’s progress in medicine and surgery, under the general editorial charge of Charles L. Mix, A.M., M.D., and Roger T. Vaughan, Ph.B., M.D.

The materia medica and therapeutics section is divided into Part I, drugs; Part II, extracts of animal organs, serums, and
vaccines; Part III, electricity, Röntgen rays, radium, and radioactive substances.

The preventive medicine is dealt with under the following divisions:—infectious diseases, industrial and social diseases, general sanitation, the physician and public health work, eugenics.

Climatology is very short, 13 pages in all, and an index follows the three sections.

This is a series stated to be published primarily for the general practitioner, and is arranged in several volumes to enable those interested in the special subjects to buy only the parts they desire. This volume is made up mainly of a series of synopses of articles from American, British, and Continental journals, and we doubt if it would appeal to practitioners in this country who are enabled to get similar information from the current British medical journals. The synopses, however, are quite well done.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics, including Pharmacy, Dispensing, Pharmacology, and Administration of Drugs. By Rakhaladas Ghosh, L.M.S.Cal.Univ. Edited by B. H. Deare, Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S., with the assistance of Birendra Nath Ghosh, F.R.F.P.S.Glasg. Sixth Edition. Calcutta: Hilton & Co. 1915.

The authors have certainly produced a very useful handbook on the subject, and it is specially well arranged and written in respect to the first four parts, viz., materia medica proper, pharmacy and dispensing, administration of drugs, and pharmacology. These four parts account for 165 out of nearly 700 pages, so that rather more attention has been devoted to their general consideration than is usual in a handbook.

Part V, materia medica and therapeutics—Section 1, inorganic materia medica, and Section 2, organic materia medica—occupies the bulk of the book, and in this edition the drugs are arranged very much in the groups that are nowadays conventional; in former editions the drugs were arranged alphabetically. Many non-official preparations are given, and each group of drugs has its pharmacology and its therapeutics set forth in the usual way
and with sufficient fulness to render the book quite a good work of reference.

Part VI describes briefly vaccine and serum therapeutics, and this is followed by a few pages dealing with organo-therapy. There is a good index. The book makes a very favourable impression, and should prove useful not only to a medical student but also to the general practitioner. It, of course, conforms to the new B.P.

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Posological Tables, Appendix on Poisons, Index of Diseases and Medicines arranged according to their Actions. By William Craig, M.D., C.M., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.Ed. Fourth Edition. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1915.

The title accurately describes the scope of this little book. The inclusion of the form of administration of each drug in the posological tables adds greatly to its usefulness to the student. In this edition a revision has been made in accordance with the British Pharmacopoeia, 1914, and the chief alterations, additions, and omissions effected by the new B.P. are summarised at the end of the ordinary posological tables.

This is an excellent book for a student, and should be exceedingly useful to him when attending the dispensary practice at the hospital. The book is small enough for the waistcoat pocket, and costs only 1s.—a very good shilling’s worth.

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County of Dumfries: Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Condition of the County for the Year 1913. By J. Maxwell Ross, M.A., M.B., B.Sc., F.R.C.S.Ed., County Medical Officer.

Dr. Ross’s Report is one which well repays perusal. It is very clearly arranged and provides much interesting reading.

The population of the county districts showed a decrease. The birth-rate was 21·6 per 1,000 living and was the lowest since 1907. The corrected death-rate was 13·6. The prevalence of the seven principal zymotic diseases was moderate, and out
of 643 deaths from all causes, only 23 were due to the diseases commonly grouped under this head. Tuberculous diseases were responsible for 57 deaths, of which 32 were due to pulmonary phthisis, 12 to tuberculous meningitis, 3 to abdominal tuberculosis, and 10 to other tuberculous diseases. The total tuberculous death-rate was 1.358 per 1,000. The death-rate from phthisis showed a very large decrease during the year. The infantile mortality was 99 per 1,000 births, the male rate being 105.5 and the female rate 87.9; 5 per cent of these deaths were from diarrhoea, a very low proportion.

A specially excellent part of the Report is the first report of the tuberculosis officer for the period ending 31st December, 1913, which expresses the joint views of Dr. Thomson, who is the tuberculosis officer, and Dr. Ross, who acts as chief tuberculosis officer. The inception of the scheme is described, and the general principles which have been decided on as to the carrying on of the work. In the first instance, the patients are left under the charge of their own medical attendant, and are simply supervised from a public health point of view. The only exception to this is that the tuberculosis officer is willing to treat such of the patients as are recommended by practitioners for tuberculin treatment. For each patient a clinical report is made out, a Register of Contacts is kept, and also a Record of Home Conditions. In addition, in regard to insured persons an epitome of the information required under the National Insurance Acts is made out for purposes of reference. There is also a chart for use of cases under tuberculin treatment. The visit to the home of the consumptive is made the occasion of giving general sanitary advice, such as is often more effective than when given by the practitioner in attendance. A very good summary of our knowledge in regard to the prevention of the spread of consumption has been made out and printed on a stiff card, and a copy is left where it is thought desirable. A more detailed statement is printed as a leaflet. The treatment in regard to contacts is notable and very praiseworthy. A notification is made out and sent to the chief medical officer recording every child of school age who is found to be in contact with a case of tuberculosis. Since the school medical inspection is a department of the
Public Health Office, the tuberculosis officer is able to go to the schools personally and examine such contacts there; but, in addition, the tuberculosis officer’s notification cards are used to make a list of the children in each school who have been exposed to tuberculous infection. Such children are specially called for and examined at each subsequent routine visit of the school medical officers, so that by this means the children’s health is reviewed at least once a year. In this way it is hoped that impending attacks among contacts will be detected in their early stages. This co-ordinated action between the tuberculosis officer and the school medical officers is to be highly commended, and it is a matter for regret that so far it does not obtain in Glasgow.

The tuberculin treatment by the tuberculosis officer in the various districts of the county has already been found to curtail his freedom, and necessitate weekly visits in a certain defined order. This is because it is entirely domiciliary, the distances being too great to arrange dispensary consultations.

Another notable feature of the scheme is the provision of shelters constructed of Californian redwood in the form of a square one-roomed wooden house, 7½ feet by 7½ feet by 6 feet high at the walls and 8½ feet to the roof ridge. There is a door which can be locked, but no window, but inside there are removable panels from half-way up the walls to the roof on all sides. These panels are manipulated from within the shelter, and can be arranged so as to get light and air to suit varying weather conditions. They cost £12, 10s. each. They serve the very useful purpose of continuing the open-air treatment of patients returning from sanatorium, besides keeping them apart from the other members of the family. The remainder of the Report relates the difficulties with regard to the water supply of Dumfries landward district, as well as problems in sewage disposal and pollution of streams; the work done in the bacteriological and chemical laboratory, and the separate reports for the burghs in the county. Notes on the weather and health statistics of 1913, and an abstract of meteorological observations conclude the volume.