REVIEW.

The Early Diagnosis of Heart Failure, and other Essays on the Heart and Circulation. By T. Stacey Wilson, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1915. (12s. 6d. net.)

In the series of separate essays of which this volume consists will be found a mass of observations, for the most part new, which will be of the greatest value to the practitioner in his estimate of the working capacity of the heart. The essays have been written at various times during the last twenty years, and as they deal with closely related subjects they occasionally overlap; but repetition is one of the essential qualifications of a teacher, and Dr. Stacey Wilson has much to teach us. Designed to help the practitioner, his book is written with constant reference to, and insistence upon, clinical conditions. It deals with such subjects as the signs of heart failure where there is no enlargement of the heart, demonstrating that a diminution in its size may be an indication of muscular weakness; a high position of the diaphragm as a sign of heart weakness; and a diminution in the area of liver dulness as a similar indication. It also discusses dilatation of the heart due to overstrain, displacement of the heart, valvular disease in relation to ventricular expansion, and the diagnostic importance of pallor as a symptom of heart failure; and it closes with an account of an extremely interesting case of arrhythmia, which throws new light on the venous pulse and the action of the auricles. The text is followed by an extensive summary of the facts and arguments adduced in support of the various theses maintained, with page references which facilitate the use of the text. As has been said, the book contains much that is new, and its eminent merit is that it is essentially clinical. It is a record of careful and accurate research, and the reader who has mastered it will have much enlarged his knowledge.
of cardiac disease and will be able to employ his therapeutic resources with greater confidence and success. Dr. Stacey Wilson has made a very important contribution to the study of the subject.

**A Pocket Medical Dictionary.** By G. M. Gould, M.D. Seventh Edition. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. 1915. (5s. net.)

Few words are necessary in commendation of the seventh edition of this well known and useful book. It presents all the attractive features which have gained it its wide popularity; it has been carefully brought up to date by the inclusion of the most recent terms; and care has been taken to select only those among them which are likely to be of permanent value. It may be confidently recommended as an almost indispensable companion to students of modern medical literature.

**The Involuntary Nervous System.** By Walter Holbrook Gaskell, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1916. (6s.)

This volume by the late Dr. W. H. Gaskell is the first of a series of monographs on physiology to be published under the editorship of Professor Starling. It forms a fitting introduction, as it deals with a series of phenomena of great importance in all branches of the science. It is particularly valuable as a record of the conclusions of a most original worker. Physiology owes a very great deal to the late author's patient investigation of the involuntary nervous system, researches which were never carried out in a narrow fashion, but were designed on the broadest lines, and even if all the conclusions could not be fully justified yet they were of immense value in stimulating further research. Although the present volume is no mere introduction to the subject, and although its greatest value will be to those who have some previous knowledge, it will be found to be indispensable to all workers who have to deal either directly
or indirectly with the involuntary nervous system, be they anatomists, physiologists, or clinicians.

Dr. Gaskell discusses the problem in twelve chapters, in which, after an excellent short history of the involuntary nervous system, he deals with the motor functions of the thoracic-lumbar (sympathetic), the bulbo-sacral, and the mid-brain outflows of connector nerves; the three following chapters are devoted to the inhibitory nerves, followed by chapters on the rhythmic movements, the innervation of glandular structures, the connector neurons, the phylogenetic origin of the sympathetic nervous system, and a chapter devoted to a final summary. The volume is provided with a good bibliography, and is well illustrated with coloured diagrams.

Curschmann's Text-Book on Nervous Diseases. By Various German Authors. Authorised English Edition. Edited by C. W. Burr, B.S., M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston’s Son & Co. 1915. Two Volumes. ($12.00 net.)

This text-book was so well worth translating that it is a pity that somewhat more pains were not taken in the process. It is needless to say that much is to be learned from the work of men of the authority possessed by Curschmann, Hirsch, Krause, Schlesinger, and the other collaborators in the German edition, and that even a faithful translation of such a book cannot be without value to the neurologist; but the German work was published several years ago—if the reviewer’s memory serves him, about 1909—and much has happened in neurology in the interval. Of these happenings, which should have been the subject of editorial comment, the editor takes no count. To take only two examples, Marie’s name does not appear in connection with the subject of aphasia, and no reference is made to Monakow’s contributions to it; while in connection with cerebro-spinal fever (still described as epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis) the serum treatment is dismissed as in its infancy, and the editor corrects the now misleading statement merely by the briefest reference to Flexner’s work, of which, in a book of this size, full details should have been given. We
have therefore a presentment, valuable indeed, of the subject of neurology as it stood in Germany at the time of publication of the original, to which the editor has added a brief discussion of certain aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of neurasthenia, psychasthenia, and hysteria, which he considers not sufficiently elaborated in the text. But the value of the book would have been much increased had it represented the position of the subject at the present day.

Sleeping Sickness: a Record of Four Years' War against it in the Island of Principe. By B. F. Bruto da Costa, J. F. Sant Anna, A. C. dos Santos, and M. G. de Aranjo Alvares. Translated by J. A. Wyllie, F.R.G.S., Lieutenant-Colonel, Indian Army (retired). Published for the Centro-Colonial, Lisbon, by Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1916. (7s. 6d. net.)

This volume records the endeavour of a Portuguese medical mission to stamp out sleeping sickness in the Island of Principe. In the first part a full and interesting account is given of the geography and natural conditions of the island, the history of the epidemic, and the distribution and life conditions of the Glossina palpalis. From 1902 to 1913 the average mortality from sleeping sickness in Principe was 5·6 per cent, the total death-rate being 15·5 per cent. From 1907 to 1911 microscopic examination of the blood showed the presence of trypanosomes in 22·2 per cent of the inhabitants. The grave consequences of such a condition of affairs can easily be imagined, and in the second part of the book the war against the disease is described. In 1911, with a small staff which was gradually increased to 316 members, the work of exterminating the Glossina palpalis was begun in earnest. The water courses and swamps were exposed to sunlight by clearing away bushy vegetation and felling many forest trees. Swamps were reclaimed by draining and by filling them up. As far as possible all pigs and dogs were destroyed. The death sentence was also passed on civet cats and monkeys, although it is improbable that the glossina ever feeds on the blood of these animals. Many glossinæ were caught by Maldonado's method, i.e., the wearing during the day of black cloths smeared with a viscous preparation. Infected
domestic animals were slaughtered, treatment by atoxyl being found of little avail. By law all persons bitten by the glossina received a preventive injection of atoxyl. Systematic blood examinations were made, and all infected persons isolated at once and treated by atoxyl. As a result of these well-devised measures the glossina has been exterminated in Principe. None have been caught since April, 1914. The cases of human trypanosomiasis have been reduced to about thirty, and these are isolated in a hospital under the direct supervision of the health officer.

The fourth part of the volume deals in an equally interesting fashion with the sanitary future of Principe, and the last part is devoted to a study of the trypanosomiases of the island. The Portuguese medical mission is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory result of its labours. Its work was evidently well organised and well carried out, and should have far-reaching effects. Lieutenant-Colonel Wyllie has furnished an excellent translation. The volume is very readable, and is well and profusely illustrated.

Diabetes Mellitus. By NELLIS B. FOSTER, M.D. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1915.

In recent years a large amount of work has been done upon the pathogenesis of diabetes, but from the very nature of the subject it has been chiefly laboratory work; and has therefore been reported in special journals not easily accessible to the clinician. It has occurred to Dr. Foster that a conspectus and critical review of this work ought to be included in any complete presentation of the subject of diabetes mellitus, and therefore he has brought together in one volume whatever is known of diabetes both from the point of view of research and from the clinical side. That such a method of treating the subject is a useful one is sufficiently obvious; even a summary of the results of research cannot fail to be of benefit to the practitioner. But Dr. Foster’s handling of the subject is more than a summary. It is a careful analysis and criticism of all the significant work that has been done in the last ten years, coupled with references
sufficiently extensive to enable the reader to pursue for himself any branch of the subject in which he may be interested. If after a perusal of the part of the volume devoted to laboratory work he finds that in many directions it has led as yet to no definite results, it is to be remembered that the problems of metabolic chemistry are among the most difficult the worker has to deal with, and that even our present imperfect knowledge has thrown much light on the important condition of acidosis. Further progress is to be expected not by belittling the results achieved, but by a careful study of them for hints of the direction in which research may prove useful. Such a purpose is admirably served by Dr. Foster's book, and the reader will derive from it both a scientific conception of diabetes and many valuable suggestions towards its scientific treatment.

The Book of the Fly. By G. Hurlston Hardy. With an Introduction by Halford Ross. London: William Heinemann. 1915. (2s. 6d. net.)

At a time when the prevalence of fly-borne disease is widely recognised by the medical profession, but not yet sufficiently familiar to the general public, Major Hurlstone Hardy's book appears very appositely. Its appeal is not only to the laity, for while it describes in sufficiently untechnical language the varieties and the habits of the harmful species of flies, and gives an account of simple and yet effective methods for their destruction, it also provides much information of importance to the entomologist, and corrects many scientific misconceptions which have arisen from a lack of personal observation. Great as is the suffering to animals produced by stable-flies, gad-flies, cestrid flies, and other species, from the point of view of the spread of human disease it is the house-fly that matters, and against which a campaign of extermination should be waged. Should anyone object that every created thing must have a usefulness of its own, Major Hardy's answer is that the use of the house-fly is as a warning against human negligence. Even Uncle Toby, we may imagine, would have been less merciful had he been aware that "the house-fly, as we know it, is absolutely the
developed product of human insanitation; scientifically and practically it is a new 'species' of an old 'genus' established by a long course of breeding in man-made environment." Once we have learnt that the prevalence of flies in our houses is a reflection upon our personal habits, upon our means of disposal of sewage, manure, food refuse, and other such substances, we shall have gone a long way to a general effort towards extinction of the pest—a longer way, in all probability, than if the public were merely told, upon the authority of the medical profession, that flies are often responsible for the spread of disease. Anyone may get a disease without loss of caste; no one likes to be thought unclean. The means of extinction are, fortunately, simple, and if they were generally adopted the summer plague of flies would rapidly be reduced to very small dimensions. Books like Major Hardy’s, full as it is of the knowledge gained from long personal observation, and simply and effectively as its story is told, are of the highest value in directing attention both to the evil and to the means of cure.

Transactions of American Laryngological Association. Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Annual Meetings. New York: Published by the Association. 1913, 1914.

These volumes contain much to interest specialists in diseases of the throat and nose, but it is impossible within the limits of a short notice to do more than indicate a few of the outstanding contributions.

Jonathan Wright in a comprehensive manner reviews the historical, etiological, and histological aspects of atrophic rhinitis. He maintains that the common underlying lesion binding together the allied clinical phenomena of the different varieties of atrophic rhinitis is periostitis of the thin scroll bones, a common enough process but in a unique situation. There is hardly any histological lesion that could serve as a common cause for the changes in the mucosa excepting a bone lesion which had interfered with the nutrition of the soft parts; the sequence of the histological changes is, however, not yet fully understood.
Several papers deal with the tonsils. George Shambaugh emphasises their importance as a focus for systemic infection. He believes that this relation has been more fully appreciated by the leading internists than by the general practitioner or throat specialist. This is probably because the internist is consulted regarding such cases, and is familiar with the effects of other foci of infection, e.g., pyorrhoea, chronic appendicitis, infection of the genital tract, &c.; he is therefore prepared to recognise in a structure like the faucial tonsil, which is so frequently the seat of acute streptococcal infection, not only the source of acute systemic infection, e.g., rheumatic fever, endocarditis, nephritis, but also of chronic affections, e.g., arthritis, neuritis, nephritis, &c. Gordon Wilson, in his paper on the significance of plasma cells in the tonsil, holds that these cells are actively engaged in combating the toxins which pass through adenoid tissue, and their presence, instead of showing that the tonsil is diseased, indicates that it is functionally active. George B. Wood reports the results of his experiments on the passage of anthrax bacilli through the tonsils.

A series of five papers deals with phlegmons of the upper respiratory tract. A number of other contributions, chiefly clinical, complete the volume.

The volume for 1914 opens with Dr. Hubbard's presidential address, which treats of the influence of temperature, humidity, and ventilation on the air we breathe, and consequently on the causation of catarrhs. He proves the importance of establishing a proper humidity standard in our houses. Amongst other advantages, precipitation of dust takes place in a moist air, and thus lessens the liability of transmission of air-borne infections.

A symposium of papers is devoted to "Empyema of the nasal accessory sinuses in children under fourteen years of age." All of the authors regard these affections as commoner than is generally supposed; diphtheria, scarlet fever, and measles are given as the usual causes; and the methods of treatment applicable to young subjects are considered. We miss reference to the muco-purulent catarrh which is not infrequently observed in children as a sequela of one of the above-mentioned diseases, and in which the discharge from the accessory cavities is trivial as compared with that secreted by the nasal mucous membrane.
Braden Kyle gives directions for the chemical and physical examination of salivary secretion.

Other papers deal with—"The relation of the tonsils to thyroid disease," "Endo-nasal operation on tumour of the hypophysis," "Operative treatment of cleft palate," &c.

The Gynecology of Obstetrics: An Exposition of the Pathologies Bearing Directly on Parturition. By David Hadden, B.S., M.D. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1915. (17s. net.)

The first part of this book is taken up with a minute description of the anatomy of the pelvic floor and the cervix, based upon dissections done by the author. The descriptions of the dissections are very minute, and many coloured plates are given; but we must confess that we cannot make much of the plates. The colouring is well done, and they make beautiful illustrations; but something more than an artistic effect is required. They are far too small, and it is quite impossible to make out the details. The mechanism of the relaxed outlet is fully discussed with the etiology and prevention of lacerations. He condemns episiotomy on anatomical grounds. The pathology of the cervix is fully dealt with, and many very fine microphotographs are given. These illustrations are exceedingly well done. He is a strong advocate of immediate repair of the cervix, even if there is no hæmorrhage; we thoroughly agree with this. He is a believer in the use of a continuous silkworm-gut suture in perineal repairs. Bladder infections are dealt with, and there is a chapter on kidney ptosis. We were not aware that kidney ptosis had any particular significance in obstetrics. The author has put a great deal of work into the production of the book, but we must confess that we have been disappointed with it.