CHAOS in the classification of disease, and the common opinion that at the time of birth development ceases abruptly, have prompted Mr. Hastings Gilford to expound this new pathology, which, in addition to replacing confusion by order, demonstrates that most of the maladies to which we are subject are disorders of growth and development, and that by far the larger number of them do not begin till after birth.

In sustaining his thesis the author marshalls his facts into an orderly sequence, and gradually builds up his argument as follows:—It is first shown that growth is a quantitative process and development qualitative. Development is of two kinds—ontogenetic and phylogenetic, and it is insisted on that the latter manifests itself almost as conspicuously after as before birth. Development is co-terminous with life, and is either progressive or regressive. Regression implies a repetition of progressive phases in reverse order; and the structural changes of senility consist in the return of cells and tissues to their original simplicity. The cells of the body correspond phylogenetically with the divisions of the animal kingdom into cells, primitive organisms, and complex organisms. The rate of development varies in different animals and in different organs of the same animal, is prone to be rhythmic, and is believed to be the reflex of seasonal and other external influences upon post-development. Death, however, is inevitable.

The trinity of nutrition, growth, and development united in health, are separated in disease. Each may be either morbidly defective or excessive; and the morbid results may vary considerably according as isolated cells, organs, or collections of organs are affected. We are not concerned here with diseases of extrinsic origin. The causes of degeneration are alluded to; and then come the distinguishing features of the disorders of post-natal growth and development. In infantilism it is demonstrated that certain stages
of development are left out, so that life is shortened rather than prolonged; and that senilism is a true disease, the condition being constituted by the premature senile decay on the one part, and the normal state of the environment on the other.

A disease of growth or development is necessarily a biological process in the first place, for its manifestations (symptoms) are invariably based upon physiological precedents. Its origin cannot be accounted for solely by the influence of toxins or other contemporary causes, but is also dependent on variation, which proceeds from causes in action in remote evolutionary time. The disorders of growth and development, when traced back to their beginnings, are found to be produced by two sets of circumstances—the one contemporary, the other historic or reversionary.

Innocent tumours are regarded as progressive and regressive variations of tissues, and cancers as reversions or regressive variations of cells in their individual capacity. Infantilism of the liver probably accounts for some cases of atrophic cirrhosis or acute yellow atrophy. The cirrhoses of liver, kidneys, arteries, pancreas, and other organs are to be regarded as expressions of a premature senility. Amaurotic family idiocy and dementia praecox are to be explained by senilism consecutive on a premature degeneration. Pernicious anaemia and leukaemia present themselves under two aspects, viz. (1) as a major and (2) as a minor variation. Osteomalacia, osteitis deformans, and arthritis deformans are pre-senile degenerations. Dwarfism, gigantism, obesity, masculinism, feminism, sexual precocity, and centenarianism are all considered as variations. The sexual variety of ateleiosis is shown to closely correspond with our ideas of the short type of palæolithic man. Acromegaly is to be viewed as a reversion to our simian ancestry, a less complete example of the same harking back being presented by normal old age.

It is impossible to convey here anything like an adequate idea of the scope and originality of this remarkable book. New vistas of thought are opened up by its perusal, and few indeed will fail to find, in presence of this master mind, stimulation and encouragement against anaesthetising beliefs. We can imagine no stronger plea for thinking biologically, and we strongly advise all to make themselves acquainted with these "new lichts." Further, it should interest the practical man to learn that much of this work, which he is too apt to imagine can be no more than a ploughing of the
sands, has important bearings on treatment. In conclusion, it cannot be sufficiently insisted on, as Mr. Hastings Gilford asserts, that all intrinsic diseases must of necessity be no more than the expression of the common laws of life, and have their springs either in contemporary events or in events that have influenced us in the past. And, if we put on one side bacteria-produced diseases, and group together all those maladies that are independent of, or only partly dependent on, external sources, we find that by far the majority are merely the extremes of normal biological processes.

**Fasting in Diabetes.** By Dr. G. Guelpa. Translated by F. C. Arnold, B.A., M.B. London: Rebman, Limited. 1912.

Based on a paper by Dr. Guelpa, of Paris, on "Starvation and Purgation in the Relief of Disease," the present book is an effort to show the advantages of the treatment in cases of diabetes, chronic arthritis, gout, and certain other chronic diseases.

Naturally, the questions of auto-intoxication and disintoxication have received much attention of late, and there can be no doubt that treatment on any rational lines must take cognisance of the fact that many pathological conditions are fostered by the continual auto-intoxication which goes on in, at least, the great majority of cases. Briefly, the object aimed at is to "induce the organism by the withholding of food, to burn up, so to speak, its waste, effete, and toxic matters, and to remove the products of this combustion freely and regularly." It is stated that the treatment can be carried out for a period of three days without any hardship or suffering. Dr. Guelpa records cases of diabetic gangrene in which amputation was about to be resorted to, but in which the disintoxication treatment led to an arrest of the gangrenous process, and to recovery of parts already cyanosed and insensible. Notes of an experimental case are given.

Dr. Guelpa points out that, in disease, nature generally takes from us all desire for food. So far this is quite true; but is Dr. Guelpa, in generalising from this particular, not committing a very evident logical fallacy? Besides, in not a few of the chronic diseases this anorexia is absent or little marked.

The treatment is accompanied by saline purgatives, and Dr. Guelpa states that his patients are astonished to find that
they do not suffer from hunger during the fasting process; also that in his own case he feels fitter than before "to embark, in good time, on the laborious daily round of a medical practitioner." Courageous practitioners should make a note of this. Dr. Guelpa further regards the fact that the sensation of hunger leaves us after the ingestion of food as a further proof of the correctness of his theory.

A considerable number of cases are quoted by Dr. Guelpa in favour of his theory, and one is left to surmise if he ever saw a case which was unfavourable.

There is no reasonable doubt that in very many cases Dr. Guelpa's disintoxication and fasting treatment must have only good results, but the proof of his theory as applied generally is not complete.

**Manual of Operative Surgery.** By H. J. Waring, M.S., M.B., B.Sc.Lond., F.R.C.S. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1912.

It does not seem a very long time since we called attention to the excellence of Mr. Waring's work when the third edition was published. The book is evidently popular, and the popularity is well deserved. The new edition is amplified in some parts and judiciously pruned in others. A new feature is the employment of the new International Anatomical Terminology. To many readers this may prove a decided disadvantage, in spite of a complete glossary placed in the beginning of the book. We certainly feel that we will be slow to throw over terms we have known from our professional youth up; we hardly will recognise the musculo-spinal nerve as the "nervous radialis," the serratus magnus as the "serratus anterior," the cotyloid ligament as the "labrum glenoidale," the internal malleolus as the "malleolus medialis." But it is quite proper that scientific language and description should be one and unmistakable all the world over. In the text Mr. Waring, fortunately, takes care that the old terminology is inserted in brackets after the new in most instances, so that misinterpretation is reduced to a minimum.

Another new feature is the free use of skiagraphs to assist in the illustration of operations on bones, as in amputations and excisions in the fingers and hand. This method undoubtedly makes more clear the relation of the skin incision to the section through the bone or through the joint.

The book is issued by the publishers of the Oxford Medical
Publications, and that is a sufficient guarantee of bibliographic excellence. Mr. Waring may be congratulated on the production of a work of sound teaching value, of practical usefulness, and, withal, one which is strictly modern, and that means much in these days of rapid, busy, surgical advance.

Notes on the Treatment of Tuberculosis: Preventive and Curative. By JOHN LAIRD, L.R.C.P. & S., Ireland. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited, 1912.

Recognising that the open-air treatment has not done what was expected of it, and being much impressed with the great want of confidence shown by his colleagues in the use of medicinal remedies, Dr. Laird has felt it his duty to draw attention to a mixture, which he has himself evolved, and which he is convinced is "almost specific in action" in every variety of tuberculosis. The formula for this elixir is:

R. — Sodii iodidi, 3ss.
    Sodii benzoatis, 3iii.
    Liq. arsenicalis, 3ss.
    Tinct. pulsatillæ, 3i.
    Tinct. baptismæ, 3iii.
    Syr. aurantii, 3i.
    Aq. chloroformi, ad 3viii — Misce.

Sig. — 3i thrice daily for an adult.

In addition, the administration of large quantities of calcium salts is an essential feature of this treatment; and in surgical cases a lint dressing, moistened with a solution of tincture of iodine and covered with oil-silk, is applied. All the cases that Dr. Laird reports not only get well, but keep so.

A Short Practice of Medicine. By ROBERT A. FLEMING, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1912.

This text-book, which is now in its second edition, has been made more up-to-date since the publication of the first edition. New paragraphs on kala-azar, gastric neuroses, diseases of the cauda-equina, &c., have been added. In the compilation of a short text-book the chief difficulty is often
the power of discrimination as to what should be included and what left out. We consider that, in this respect, the author has used the pruning knife with good judgment.

Looked at from the point of view both of the student and of the general practitioner, it would be carping criticism to lay any charge against the author. The student is assisted in his work of preparation for examinations, and the practitioner will find in the volume valuable suggestions both as to diagnosis and as to treatment.

We confess that we can hardly share with the author the view that the methods of qualitative and quantitative testing of the normal and abnormal constituents of urine and stomach contents, and the description of pulse tracings, with their diagnostic significance, are better omitted in a volume of this nature, and should only be included in a work of clinical medicine; but with this single reservation we can heartily recommend the volume as a valuable addition to the many text-books at our command.

The Practical Medicine Series. Volume II: General Surgery. Edited by Dr. John B. Murphy, of Chicago. 1912.

We have sincere pleasure in calling attention to the new volume of the Practical Medicine Series on general surgery. It appears to contain everything new that is worth drawing attention to in the surgical literature of the year. The editor's field-glass has roamed widely. But, as might be expected, his own country has come first into focus, and we find that extracts from American surgical literature form a big majority of the contributions. There is a great deal in the book which certainly will never be incorporated in the general practice of surgery, but we do not cavil at that. The object of the whole series is to bring together into comparatively small bulk all the work of importance in the year, to show what is being done, to show the trend of surgical thought and opinion and experiment.

The introductory remarks by the editor are mostly dogmatic sweeping statements, of no value as a review of the year's progress. We venture to think they should be left out, and the actual text left to speak for itself.

In the text we do not find that any important feature of surgical work of the year has been omitted, and we feel we can trust the editor to see that that is so. No man has time to
read even the contents pages of all the surgical journals published throughout the world, so the service rendered to us by Dr. Murphy is a very substantial one. We regard the volume as good enough to deserve a place within easy reach of the surgeon’s hand when he reads up his work or writes up his case book.

Diseases of the Liver, Gall-Bladder, and Bile-Ducts. By Humphry Davy Rolleston, M.A., M.D.Cantab., F.R.C.P. Illustrated. London: Macmillan & Co. 1912.

It is now nearly eight years since the first edition of this work appeared, and we remember how much we were impressed by the elaborateness which characterised it, and by the immense industry which it displayed. It was reviewed in terms of high commendation in the Glasgow Medical Journal for September, 1905.

The arrangement of the present edition is very similar to that of the former, and it is not necessary to enter into detail with regard to it. The present volume, however, is of a more tasteful appearance than the other, which lies beside us as we write. It is of smaller vertical measurement, and the font of type is one which, to us at any rate, yields a more pleasing result than the American one, and particularly in the title page and table of contents. The present volume, in addition to more than a hundred figures, contains seven coloured plates. One of these forms the frontispiece now as it did in the original work. The others are illustrative of cirrhosis of the liver, of tuberculous cavities in the liver, of nodular cirrhosis or multiple adenoma, of gall-stones showing spontaneous fracture, and of cholangitic suppuration in the liver. The work concludes with an extensive index. We have pleasure in again recommending it strongly to our readers.

Pathology and Treatment of Diseases of Women. By Professors A. Martin and Ph. Jung. Translated from the Fourth Edition by Henry Schmitz, M.D. London: Rebman, Limited. 1912.

This work is already well known to German readers, and enjoys a popularity which has exhausted three editions.

The book before us is a translation by Professor Henry
Schmitz, of Chicago, of the fourth German edition, which has been rewritten and revised by the authors. It is eminently practical and concisely written, theories and controversial subjects being omitted. The authors have a very extensive knowledge of gynaecological literature, as is shown by the numerous references, but the treatment described is that for which they have a preference.

The great value of the book is from the clinical side, as the views are those of keen observers who have made good use of their very large clinical material, and have the gift of imparting their knowledge and experience to others in a clear and readable manner.

We do not share the translator’s enthusiasm that this book “has a number of advantages over similar works” that “make it invaluable to teacher and student,” and “to the general practitioner and gynaecologist alike.” No book is likely to appeal to all these, and there are many other works both in German and English much better suited for the student.

This book was originally the outcome of post-graduate lectures delivered in Berlin, which shows its scope, and while it should chiefly appeal to the general practitioner interested in gynaecology, we can cordially recommend it to the specialist and teacher.

The only adverse note of criticism we would offer is to the translation, although there are methods of treatment of which many will disapprove, such as the advocacy of the intra-uterine stem and the curettage of the uterus without a previous dilatation of the cervix.

The pleasure of reading is greatly marred by the German style of English, which obtrudes itself to too great an extent, and suggests translation by a German.

“The sound enables a welcome control of the palpating fingers” is not pretty, nor does the unnecessary use of redundant adverbs impart clearness to a sentence. It is, however, a more serious defect when failure to give the correct English equivalent makes the authors state that “the hæmorrhages stop as soon as the uterine wall is scraped off completely,” when what is meant is a complete removal by the curette of retained products of conception adhering to the uterine wall.

Should a second American edition be called for, there is room for great improvement in style.