General Medical Council to be inadequate, humbly petition the Medical Council to represent such inadequacy to Her Majesty’s Privy Council, in order that the medical practitioners of Glasgow and the West of Scotland may elect an additional representative.”

It was further agreed that the Council of the Society form the committee to draw up the representation and make the necessary arrangements.

MEETING XI.—27TH DECEMBER, 1900.

The President, Dr. William Watson, in the Chair.

The special committee appointed at a former meeting to consider the question of the abuse of hospitals and dispensaries laid their report before the Society. After some discussion, the following recommendation was approved:—“In addition to any other method at present in existence, or under consideration by the directors of such hospitals, that patients desiring treatment at the out-door dispensaries should obtain a printed form containing a declaration that his or her circumstances are such as warrant gratuitous treatment; and that this form be signed by the patient, and by either a subscriber, clergyman, missionary, or Justice of Peace, or be accompanied by a doctor’s card or line of recommendation.”

REVIEWS.

Fractures. By Carl Beck, M.D. With 178 Illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1900.

Although upon a hackneyed subject, this book is marked by much originality and freshness. The author has made extensive use of the Röntgen rays in his study of fractures, and herein not only gives the results of his observations by their means, but adorns his pages with a great number of skiagraphs, most of which are excellent and instructive. The paragraphs
devoted to the description of treatment form the least satisfactory part of the book, but the explanation of the defects of this department lies in his regarding reduction of the fracture as of infinitely greater importance than fixation. We cannot say that in this respect he is wrong, for he reflects what is the growing opinion among the surgeons of the present day. Hence the importance of the Röntgen rays, for by their aid we can make out the true nature of the displacement, can see how the displaced fragments may best be reduced, and can ascertain if reposition is satisfactorily accomplished. In regard to the much discussed question of the advisability of using wire sutures, steel pins, or screws in the treatment of simple fractures, he takes a moderate and wise position when he expresses himself as follows:—"While under the auspices of asepsis such treatment need not be followed by any reaction, and might, in the hands of competent masters, give excellent results in suitable cases, such tendencies must be regarded as surgical aberrations. It is only where much diastasis is present, as in fracture of the patella or olecranon, when bony union appears improbable, that such rigorous interference is demanded. But by our recent means of making a positive diagnosis possible in all cases, it is usually just as easy to obtain a perfect result by simple bloodless reduction and by thorough immobilisation."

Dr. Beck points out a feature of Colles' fracture which has hitherto escaped notice, and that is the frequency of fissure-fracture of the capitulum ulnae; it is of little importance, and its presence has only been ascertained by the use of the Röntgen rays.

In speaking of gun-shot fractures, he makes the following curious reflection:—"When modern firearms were introduced, it was predicted that injuries in war would be more humane than they had been. The size of the new bullet being reduced from 0'7 to 0'3 inch, its rate of projection increased from four to six hundred inches in a second, and its penetrating force being made about six times greater, it was believed that the thinness and the great force of the bullet would cause a clean, round, canal-like foramen. This was proved to be an error by the experiments of the author made in February, 1896, at Governor's Island, N.Y. As soon as the author had a chance to utilise Röntgen's discovery, he studied the form and degree of destruction produced by the new army rifle (Krüg-Jorgensen) in the following manner. Thanks to the courtesy of the officer in charge at Governor's Island, the author was enabled to skiagraph leg and skull immediately after they were shot at
by a soldier of the garrison at various distances. Contrary to all theories, the bones, as well as the soft tissues, showed the most destructive effect." Now, the extensive experience we have lately had in South Africa has abundantly proved that those were right who held that the small bullet and the other conditions mentioned above would certainly lead to the missile doing comparatively little damage. How, then, does Dr. Beck make this mistake? Plainly, we think, because the bullet in his experiments was fired at close range. He gives a figure (Fig. 36) which "shows the tibia at its lower third transformed into a mass of bone splinters," but the bullet was fired from a distance of fifty yards. This quite accords with experiences in South Africa, where more serious injury to the bone was found to be produced by bullets fired at close ranges than that at long ones.

In an appendix of fifty pages, the author gives an elaborate and highly interesting account of the "practical use of the Röntgen rays." He deals at considerable length with difficulties in their use, and errors in the interpretation of the skiagraphs, and gives an account of a case in which the presence of an os intermedium tarsi was mistaken for a split-off fragment of the astragalus.

In regard to the localisation of foreign bodies his description is very incomplete and unsatisfactory. He says—"For locating foreign bodies, apparatus have been devised by Hoffman, Levy-Dorn, Sehrwald, and Augerer. The author has thus far been able to locate foreign bodies in the simple manner described on page 265." On turning to that page, we find that in the description of a case in which a bullet was located in the left pterygoid process, he says—"The distances were measured during the operation simply with a graded probe first, the distance between the nasal bone and the bullet being taken at the first skiagraph, which determined the direction and extent of the skin incision, and then the same distance being taken from the side skiagraph which dictated the depth of the incision." This is wholly unsatisfactory. It would appear that he has no knowledge of the Mackenzie-Davidson localiser, with which such excellent results have been obtained. The author speaks of the use of metal numbers and letters in localisation, and refers us to Fig. 174 as illustrating this, but no letters or numbers are shown in that figure. Fig. 94 is described as showing "supra-condylar fracture of the first metatarsus of the little finger," whatever that may mean.

In spite of a few minor errors, such as those we have quoted, the book is (as we have said) interesting and valuable.
On the Use of Massage and Early Passive Movements in Recent Fractures and other Common Surgical Injuries, and the Treatment of Internal Derangements of the Knee-joint. Three Clinical Lectures delivered at St. George's Hospital, by William H. Bennett, F.R.C.S. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1900.

The Present Position of the Treatment of Simple Fractures of the Limbs. An Address delivered in Opening a Discussion at the Meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Ipswich, August, 1900, by William H. Bennett, F.R.C.S. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1900.

These two booklets treat of essentially the same subject, for the main theme of Mr. Bennett's address to the Surgical Section of the British Medical Association is the "use of massage and early passive movements in recent fractures." It may be assumed that most surgeons connected with hospitals have for years past employed massage in the late treatment of fractures of the limb bones; what Mr. Bennett advocates is the early use of massage and passive movements, and it must be admitted that the facts and arguments he adduces are worthy of consideration. If these modes of treatment are employed to prevent adhesions, instead of being used to get rid of them when they have formed, the results will necessarily be much better, and, presumably, the patient will be sooner able to return to his work. We have in large measure got rid of the old fear that non-union will result from such movement and such interference with the rigid fixation which for long was held to be essential to perfect union; and the main drawback in the carrying out of massage is the constant attention, and the hard labour entailed on nurses and on medical attendants (chiefly on the latter).

Mr. Bennett's criticism on wiring and the use of nails and screws in fractures is just and weighty, and we quite agree with his cautious practice of reserving them for special cases, where the fractured bones cannot be kept in place by other means.

On "internal derangements of the knee-joint" he speaks with some authority, having observed and taken notes of 200 cases. In this series of cases he found it necessary to operate only on 35, and he, in the lecture before us, dwells at some length on the conditions which, in his mind, justify an exploratory operation. These are—(1) Cases in which non-operative measures have failed to cure; (2) cases in which
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The general flaccidity of the joint is in excess of other symptoms; (3) cases of expediency, in which an early attempt at relief is urgently called for by special circumstances; and (4) grossly neglected cases, in which from long-continued inflammation the joint has assumed the aspect of pulpy disease.

While Mr. Bennett’s theories and practice do not always accord with our own, we admit that both his reasoning and the methods of treatment he adopts are distinguished, as a rule, by caution and discretion.

A Manual of Surgical Treatment. By W. Watson Cheyne, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., and F. T. Burghard, M.D. and M.S. Parts III and IV. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1900.

The third and fourth parts of this important work have appeared at so short an interval (notwithstanding Mr. Cheyne’s absence in South Africa) that it falls to us to review them together. The third part treats of the surgical affections of the bones and of amputations, the fourth describes the treatment of the surgical affections of the joints (including excisions) and those of the spine. We recognise the fairness of the protest entered by the authors in the preface to the fourth part as to the criticisms passed on them for their “errors of omission.” They clearly state in the general preface that “only those plans are described which our experience has led us to believe are the best;” and it is inevitable that the experience of others should be different from theirs. They are, however, still open to criticism when they fail to take note of any obvious improvement in treatment, or persist in an old plan when a newer has proved to be distinctly better. Thus, in describing amputation through the hip-joint, they speak of two modes of controlling haemorrhage, both of which are clumsy and ineffective, and make no mention of the compression of the abdominal aorta by means of the closed fist, although the latter method (first described by Macewen) is far and away the simplest and most satisfactory.

Fractures of the patella the authors consider should in all cases be treated by operation, because by no other method can osseous union be obtained. That fact is indisputable, but it is quite certain that greater risks are run in cases operated on, and that in those not so treated satisfactory results as regards locomotion are often obtained. The truth is that much depends on the amount of tearing which the lateral
expansions of the quadriceps tendon have undergone; for, if those expansions are little implicated, the patient will have excellent power of extension in spite of separation of the patellar fragments. Such cases may therefore safely be treated by other than operative methods. Then, there are considerations of age, general health, &c., which must not be overlooked, as adding to the operative risks, and we consider the authors have unwisely shut their eyes to these important considerations.

They speak very highly of bone-grafting as a means of repair when nearly the whole of the shaft of a long bone has been destroyed by osteo-myelitis, and recommend that the new bone should be obtained from a young dog or other animal, and not from another patient, asserting that in the latter case there is a liability to the transmission of disease. Their satisfaction with bone-grafting is, however, seriously discounted by the acknowledgment that in many instances so much atrophy of the new bone takes place that the limb is left very powerless.

We can almost unreservedly commend the section on the diseases of joints. It is a difficult subject, but the authors have shown sound judgment and thorough knowledge; their exposition is, moreover, distinguished by lucid description and wise dogmatism.

The two sections of the work now before us in every respect maintain the high level of the former volumes.

The International Text-Book of Surgery, by British and American Authors. Edited by A. Pearce Gould and J. Collis Warren. London: Rebman, Limited. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1900.

The aim of the editors "has been to produce a reliable textbook of surgery, embodying a clear but succinct statement of our present knowledge of surgical pathology, symptomatology, and diagnosis, and such a detailed account of treatment as to form a reliable guide to modern practice. While not aiming at the merely novel, they have carefully omitted antiquated methods, and they hope that the reader will find in these pages only what is practically useful to-day."

Of the two handsome volumes before us, the first is devoted to general and operative surgery, while the second treats of special surgery in its various branches.

The opening chapters of the first volume deal with surgical
pathology, and while that on bacteriology is both carefully written and well illustrated, we would draw special attention to the article on surgical pathology of the blood. In this the subject of leucocytosis naturally occupies a prominent place. Wounds and specific infective conditions are next considered. We are surprised to find, in the section on repair of special tissues, no account of the regenerative processes in nerves, although the changes in degeneration occupy at least a page; the paragraph, also, on regeneration of glands, while well done, is somewhat brief.

The chapters on operative surgery are well illustrated, although we cannot help observing the discrepancy between the description of Syme's amputation in the text and Figs. 102 and 103, where the ends of the plantar incision come well up above the points of the malleoli. Again, in describing osteotomy, the "outer" side of the left hand should read "inner" (p. 370), while on p. 372 we are told that we may drive the osteotome "into the bone," and then turn it into position.

No writing is immaculate, but the following is quite inexcusable, both statements occurring in the same article:—

"... Emboli set free from thrombi in the sinus-phlebitis of otitis do not produce secondary abscesses" (p. 151); while "... masses of the coagulum may act as emboli, setting up metastatic disease at different points" (p. 161). With a view to prevention of bedsores, "an old woman with an intracapsular fracture of the femur should be got up into a chair in spite of there being no union" (p. 234). This is certainly not "modern practice."

The remaining portions of this volume are devoted to the surgery of the various anatomical systems of the body. On turning to the second volume, one is met with detailed accounts of the surgery of regions. This naturally traverses, to a certain extent, ground already covered in the preceding volume, and it would have been well to have furnished the text more fully with cross-references.

Abdominal surgery and gynaecology occupy a large portion of this volume; the concluding chapters deal with military, naval, and tropical surgery.

When a book is made up of articles by various authors, one expects to find conflicting views where these articles, as they must, overlap one another. In spite of this occurring here, we are struck with the general conformity of opinions expressed, this being doubtless due in part to the "careful scrutiny of the manuscripts" by the editors.
In both volumes there is a wealth of illustrations. Those in the text are in most instances excellent, but we cannot say the same for the coloured plates, with the exception of those representing microscopical subjects.

The text is well arranged, recent investigation and opinion being inserted in small type.

We congratulate the editors on the realisation of their aim, and on the production of that rara avis—a first-class and readable book on surgery.

Angioma and Other Papers. By John Duncan, M.A., LL.D.

Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1900.

It is a long time since we have read a book which has afforded us as much pleasure as the one before us, comprising several short papers on subjects dealing with practical surgery. One or two of these are of recent date, though the majority are reprints, some of them dating back twenty years or more, but all are admirable; in style, lucidity, and logical discussion of facts, they appear to us to be models of what clinical essays should be.

Nothing could be better than the account of the structure and clinical history of capillary angiomata; and in discussing the treatment a good case is made for the employment of electrolysis, with which the author's name has long been associated, and with which he had such marked success. A short paper on "Inflammation" is very interesting, as showing the thoughts of the author on this complicated subject; so is that dealing with "Epithelioma of the Mouth" (written as far back as 1888), in which, arguing from his clinical experience, he goes in strongly for the infective nature of malignant disease. Two short papers refer to his own method of treating fistulæ, artificial anus, &c., by plastic operation, the principle underlying which is the foundation of several modern operations of great utility, while in the reprints dealing with the treatment of wounds, we see how thoroughly he appreciated and understood the advantages to be gained from the antiseptic system at a time long before it would appear to have made much impression on the majority of surgeons.

We learn from the editor's preface that it had been the intention of the author to write a book dealing with clinical surgery, and we think that no one who reads this book can fail to regret that the idea was not destined to be fulfilled, for few men were better qualified to place their opinions on record.
than John Duncan, who was not only a surgeon of the first order, but a man of the widest culture, who could consider facts and theories squarely, and form his conclusions absolutely without bias. This collection of his papers is eminently worth reading, and is certain of a warm welcome from the large number of men who enjoyed the privilege of being members of Mr. Duncan's class.

Flesh Foods, with Methods for their Chemical, Microscopical, and Bacteriological Examination. By C. Ainsworth Mitchell, B.A. Oxon., F.I.C., F.C.S. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Limited. 1900.

Into this work the author has practically crowded everything of consequence which has been written in connection with the flesh of animals used for human food. He has culled from many sources, but all are cognate to his subject. The purpose of the book will be best exhibited, perhaps, by making a rapid review of the principal chapters. The opening chapter deals with the structure and chemical composition of muscular fibre, its proteid and non-proteid, and its organic and inorganic constituents, and the second embraces a consideration of the structure and composition of osseous, adipose, and connective tissues, and of blood; and, in respect of the last-named, the author describes the crystalline characters of the oxy-haemoglobin of different animals, the modes by which this haemoglobin may be estimated, either by means of the iron which the ash of blood contains, by colorimetric tests against standardised solutions of pure oxy-haemoglobin, or by standard colour-glasses. A very interesting chapter is that which deals with the flesh of different animals. In it he describes the characters of the flesh and fat of those animals most commonly used as food by man, of horse-flesh, of the flesh of wild animals, such as that of the bear, and of the more common wild animals, as the hare, rabbit, duck, &c., in addition to the flesh of vertebrate fish, and of invertebrate animals, as crabs, oysters, mussels, and snails. Casually, we note the absence of special notice of goat's flesh, which is of common use in certain Continental countries, with the exception of a bare reference to a statement by Walley.

At page 49 we note a curiously misplaced reference. The author, writing on the influence of sex upon the qualities of the beef, states that the flesh "of the bull has a rank, strong
taste, and in consequence bull-beef may only be exposed for sale in this country with a plain notification as to its nature," and, by means of an asterisk, points the reader for his authority for the statement to a footnote containing the reference, "Public Health Act, 1875, section 261." Not being aware of the above being part of the law, we referred to the Act quoted, to find, however, that this section deals with "Proceedings for the recovery of demands below fifty pounds, which local authorities are empowered to recover in a summary manner" in a county court. The sections of the Act which deal with the inspection of meat are 116 to 119 inclusive, but in none of them is any such prohibition or restriction laid down; indeed, we are not aware that such is to be found in any Public Health Act.

In dealing with the subject of horse-flesh, the author gives the main provisions of the Sale of Horse Flesh Act, 1889—which also embraces the flesh of asses and mules—details the main characteristics of the flesh of the horse, and, in another chapter, states the methods whereby such flesh may be detected in sausages. In this connection, it ought to be noted that a considerable export trade in this flesh to the Continent is carried on from this city. The author omits, however, to give any information how the heart and tongue of the horse may be distinguished from the same organs of the ox. Incidentally, he discusses "braxy mutton," the ripening of game, and the "heating" of game. In the latter phenomenon, which is characterised chiefly by the green discoloration of the skin, the acid reaction of the flesh, and interstitial development of gases in the tissues, he hazards the opinion that it is not due to an ordinary putrefactive process, because no ammonia is produced. It appears to us, however, that it is distinctly allied to the same discoloration which is produced in the dead body in the earliest manifestation of putrefaction, and that it is due to the formation of sulphur gases and their union with the potash and iron of the blood and cyanogen from nitrogenous decomposition of the tissues. It is noteworthy that Eber succeeded in imitating the phenomenon by injecting into dead tissues a 0.05 per cent solution of potassium sulphide. In dealing with fish, we miss any reference to the differentiation of fresh from stale fish at the doubtful stage. Green oysters, as pointed out by the author from the researches of others, are not necessarily "coppered." That all oysters contain small quantities of copper is undoubted, but the coloured oysters do not contain a greater percentage than the colourless. The green colouring pigment has been, in
Marennes oysters, called “Marennin,” and its presence has been attributed by certain observers to a diseased condition of the blood of oysters, which they have termed “green leucocytes.”

In a succeeding chapter, consideration is given to the colours of normal and abnormal flesh, and to the causes of both, whether from disease, the action of bacteria, or from artifice. It is well known that in the preparation of sausages, the addition of artificial colouring agents is by no means uncommon, probably more on the Continent, however, than in this country. Such substances, for example, as cochineal, carmine, and aniline dyes, not to speak of nitre, are commonly used in Germany. The rule which Marpmann has laid down is a safe working rule, viz., to consider as suspicious all sausages which remain unchanged in colour after being kept two hours in 50 per cent alcohol, since natural flesh is thus decolorised. One of the most important subjects treated in the book is that of unsound meat. Unsoundness may obviously arise from a variety of causes, and may generally be classified into those which arise ab initio in the animal itself, and those which are produced by external factors. The author follows Letheby in his description of sound flesh. While he does not believe that the diseased flesh of animals can be unmistakeably detected by chemical means, he states at length Eber’s researches on this subject, and gives the tests upon which that observer relied for the detection of unsoundness. Eber’s test consists in the detection of hydrogen sulphide in the flesh, and is as follows:—A portion of the meat to be examined is chopped up finely, and is placed in a flask with dilute sulphuric acid. Over the fluid is suspended a strip of filter-paper soaked in 10 per cent solution of lead nitrate, the mouth of the flask is plugged with cotton-wool, and the flask and contents are placed in a dark place where there is free access of air of a temperature of 54° to 64° F., but no draught. At the end of twenty-four hours, the slip is taken from the flask and compared with a standard scale of colours, which the author gives in the frontispiece of the book. This test is based upon the fact that in the diseased flesh of animals, especially of those which are tuberculous, the sulphur compounds seem to be more loosely combined than in the flesh of healthy animals. In addition to the foregoing, there is the litmus test for acidity and alkalinity. It is well known that during rigor mortis, and for a short time thereafter, the reaction of flesh is acid, and that the onset of putrefaction is heralded by alkalinity, due to the liberation of ammonia.
Eber tested for ammonia by the formation of cloudy fumes of ammonium chloride with a test mixture composed of hydrochloric acid, 1 part; alcohol, 3 parts; and ether, 1 part.

The use of meat preservatives is discussed at some length. For temporary preservation, the sulphites or sulphurous acid are most commonly used, and boric acid and borates for more permanent preservation. "Borated" hams, for example, are now by no means unknown in the market.

The larger question of meat-preservation is left for another chapter, under the heads of preservation by cold, by drying, by salting, by smoking, by "canning"—or, as the author prefers to term it, heat-sterilisation and the exclusion of air—and, lastly, by antiseptic agents. It is a mistake to suppose that all micro-organisms are destroyed by intense cold; the recent experiments of M‘Fadyen of the Jenner Institute have clearly demonstrated that fact; at the same time, their action, growth, and development are inhibited. As it is nowadays of some importance to be able to detect the difference between frozen meat and natural meat, the microscopic test of Pouchet-Maljean will solve the question. In frozen meat the blood corpuscles are ruptured and decolorised, while in natural meat they are unruptured and normal in colour; in other words, in the former condition we see colourless broken corpuscles floating in a coloured fluid, in the latter, coloured whole corpuscles in a colourless fluid. For the same reason, when a piece of frozen meat is put into a test-tube containing cold water, a reddish coloration is more quickly imparted to the water than in the case of natural meat. Neither does salting or smoking destroy micro-organisms in any great degree. By the former mode of treatment, pathogenic organisms, not to speak of the spores, will live for periods of weeks and months in the pickling fluids. The author, too, discusses the value of canned goods, and, generally, considers the risks of poisonous effects from metallic contamination of their contents, and from toxines of bacterial production; in like manner is considered the detection of chemical preservatives.

Into the analytical methods of examining flesh foods we need not follow the writer very far; they must be carefully read, but none of them are new. The only point to be noted is that, in the estimation of "total nitrogen" where nitrates have been used for the preservation of the meat under examination, a modification of Kjeldahl's or Gunning's method must be adopted, such as Iodlbauer's, in which salicylic acid or phenol is previously dissolved in the sulphuric acid used. The author has carefully collated the best researches on the
digestibility of different kinds of flesh in vitro, and has given consideration to the calculation of food-values of flesh and the bases upon which they ought to be made.

A long chapter is devoted to the analysis of animal fats. The composition and analysis of sausages, too, receive consideration in another whole chapter. We are not yet acquainted in these islands with the very various and wonderfully composite productions of the Continent, but the commercial interchange of trade products is beginning to initiate us. We must, however, refer the reader to the book itself for a large amount of useful information upon this subject.

We would commend, also, the reader to carefully peruse the chapter on meat extracts and flesh peptones. While it is impossible in a review like this to deal fully with the views of the author, we cannot refrain, from a large number of analyses made by ourselves, from saying that we heartily concur in his view that meat extracts have hitherto received exaggerated values as food-stuffs, which are entirely unwarranted. They are at best but food-stimulants.

After dealing with the modes of cooking flesh foods and their effects, the author brings under review the various causes which render flesh food poisonous in action, devotes much attention to the parasitism and bacteriology of flesh, and, in the last chapter, condenses the modes of separating ptomaines.

In conclusion, we congratulate the author upon having compiled judiciously a very compendious book, which will prove of undoubted use to many workers in the public health service; and, while many writers of different countries have been drawn upon, the author has succeeded in reducing his material into working compass, and in an orderly manner.

Medical Electricity. By H. Lewis Jones. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1900.

The third edition of this excellent manual upon medical electricity has been entirely recast. This was rendered necessary, the use of electricity in medicine and surgery having been largely extended since the appearance of the second edition.

Dr. Lewis Jones' book is a valuable contribution to electro-medical literature, and is in all respects up to modern requirements. The chapters dealing with fundamental experiments, statical electricity, diagnosis, and general therapeutics are
well arranged and thoroughly instructive. The section on the Röntgen rays is equally satisfactory, but the description of the localisation of foreign bodies is somewhat meagre.

This is a good practical work, written for students and practitioners, and well adapted to supply the needs of those to whom it is addressed.

A Manual of Medicine. Edited by W. H. Allchin, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.Ed. Vol. II: General Diseases (continued) — Diseases caused by Parasites; Diseases determined by Poisons introduced into the Body; Primary Perversions of General Nutrition; Diseases of the Blood. London: Macmillan & Co., Limited. 1900.

This volume contains about 60 pages less matter than Vol. I, but it is in every way as attractively got up, and is furnished, like its predecessor, with two excellent coloured plates. It opens with the definition and classification of parasites, animal and vegetable. The latter have been considered for the most part in the earlier volume, in connection with the infections, and the more important of the former are now discussed from both the zoological and the clinical point of view. After this we have a consideration of poisoning by meat, diseased cereals, alcohol, opium, various metallic substances, noxious gases, and the venom of serpents.

The editor writes on primary perversions of general nutrition, on autogenetic poisons (uræmia, cholæmia, &c.), and on retrogressive and progressive changes. Inflammation and its sequelæ are discussed by Dr. Lazarus-Barlow, malignant disease and obesity by the editor, and the ductless glands and their diseases (including exophthalmic goitre) by Dr. J. Rose Bradford. Diabetes is dealt with by Dr. Bertrand Dawson, who gives, we think, too little consideration to Dr. Pavy's views. We doubt if the glycogenic theory is one whit better founded than the other. Though the occasional lesions of the pancreas and nervous system are mentioned, there is no allusion to what Dr. Workman regards as the most constant feature in the morbid anatomy of diabetes—namely, hypertrophy of the mucous membrane of the duodenum. A good account of gout is supplied by Dr. Luff, who is followed by Dr. Dawson on rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. Coutts writes on rickets, and Dr. Raymond Johnson contributes a series of short articles on some rare diseases, such as acromegaly and leontiasis. Dr. Louis Jenner deals with the normal blood,
and the methods of examining it clinically. The very important section on diseases of the blood, which concludes the text of this volume, comes from the pen of Dr. Sidney Coupland. This class of diseases is considered first in a general way with respect to their pathology and etiology, and then as divided into two groups—anæmic and hæmorrhagic. Thereafter the individual affections belonging to the two groups are separately described—namely, in group one, chlorosis, pernicious anæmia, leukæmia, splenic anæmia, and Hodgkin's disease; and in group two, hæmophilia, purpura, securvy, and paroxysmal hæmoglobinuria.

The coloured plates to which we have referred contain ten microscopic fields—some single and some composite—illustrating the human blood in health and disease. The volume is furnished with its own index.

_Hernia: Its Etiology, Symptoms, and Treatment._ By W. M'Adam Eccles, M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng. London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. 1900.

In this book, the author, as he tells us, has been at special pains to consider the aspect of actual treatment. He begins with an ordinary plain account of hernia, in which he gives the causes, clinical states, and a description of the anatomical varieties, very much on the lines of a text-book on general surgery. This is hardly what one expects in monograph; one looks for a discussion of theories and opinions which have been put forward, and also for some expression of individual experience; but there is practically nothing of the kind here, even in those parts of the book concerned with the diagnosis between hernia and other conditions simulating it, there is no discussion of signs which are often anomalous and require qualification, the diagnosis in most instances being given in tabular arrangement, which, though it may be useful at times, fails on account of the incompleteness of the statements which the tables contain.

We do not share the doubts expressed by the author regarding the possibility of strangulated omentum leading to signs of intestinal obstruction, and think that the arguments he adopts against this possibility are refuted by his description, farther on, of the symptoms produced by torsion of the spermatic cord, which he admits closely resemble those of strangulation of bowel.

The best part of the book is that dealing with the treat-
ment of hernia by trusses, and this is gone into very fully. The author, from his position as surgeon to the City of London Truss Society, has abundant opportunities for experience in this direction, and he gives very clear directions for the management of cases in this manner, and as these chapters are admirably illustrated by full-page plates taken from photographs, a good idea may be obtained of the numerous mechanical appliances that have been devised in this direction.

The operative treatment is not so satisfactorily dealt with. The author appears to us to be very conservative in his ideas as to the necessity for a "radical operation." The method of operating which he advocates for inguinal hernia, and describes at some length, does not seem to us to be ideal, while the account of the operations which are best known and probably most widely adopted is very poor; they are all—Halsted's Bassini's, Macewen's, and Kocher's—dismissed in practically one page.

The description of the rarer varieties of hernia is short and unimportant. We confess that we are disappointed with the book, though we have no doubt it will be of service to those who desire information regarding the best kind of truss to employ in special cases, and the manner in which they should be applied.

The book is well got up, the printing is clear, and the illustrations throughout are excellent.

**On Some Cirrhoses of the Liver: Being the Lumleian Lectures for the Year 1900, delivered before the Royal College of Physicians, London. By Walter Butler Cheadle, M.A., M.D. Cantab. With Illustrations. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1900.**

These lectures have already appeared in abstract in periodical literature, but we are glad to have the opportunity of studying them anew in their extended form. Dr. Cheadle, in his first lecture, points out a number of questions with regard to the various cirrhoses of the liver that still wait for determination, and then discusses at length three principal forms—atrophic, hypertrophic, and syphilitic. He shows that the hypertrophic and atrophic forms of alcoholic cirrhosis are to be regarded as distinct varieties rather than different stages of the disease, and that their symptoms are in the main alike; while the so-called biliary cirrhosis described by the French is rare in this country, if indeed it exists at all. Dr. Cheadle points
out how very apt syphilitic cirrhosis is to be mistaken clinically, and he believes that the presence of perihepatitis, as indicated by pain, tenderness over the liver, and pyrexia, is a valuable diagnostic sign, as being more marked and more frequent in syphilitic than in other forms of cirrhosis.

In the second lecture it is shown that in cases of cirrhosis other organs than the liver suffer, and, in particular, we may mention the heart and kidneys. Subjects of this disease are also regarded as specially susceptible to erysipelas and tuberculosis.

The subject of prognosis is treated of at length, and it is shown that this is particularly unfavourable in atrophic cases that have reached the stage of ascites, though even then the possibility of years of good health is not excluded. The favourable cases, however, of hepatic cirrhosis are characterised, as a rule, by enlargement of the liver, and probably by a comparatively acute morbid process, by earlier age of the patient, by absence of cachexia, and by an association with hard drinking or with syphilis.

The concluding lecture deals with treatment by diet, by drugs, and by paracentesis, the last of which is strongly advocated as a measure to be resorted to early. Some very encouraging cases are given in support of this mode of treatment.

Besides a few other illustrations, this volume contains twelve coloured plates, which are beautifully executed, and constitute a valuable addition to the text.

A Treatise on Appendicitis. By John B. Deaver, M.D. Second Edition. Illustrated with 22 Full-page Plates. London: Rebman, Limited. 1900.

The second edition of this comprehensive treatise on appendicitis has been greatly enlarged, chiefly by the addition of an exhaustive chapter on the pathology of the condition, extending to some 120 pages, from the pen of Dr. A. O. J. Kelly, Director of the Pathologic Institute of the German Hospital, Philadelphia. This is, indeed, a notable contribution to the literature of appendicitis, and is divided into four sections, viz., (1) the lesions of the appendix, (2) the peritonitis and its consequences, (3) the bacteriology, and (4) the pathogenesis. The plates add very materially to the value of the work. The chapters on diagnosis, differential diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment are all good, but the feature of the present edition
is the chapter on pathology, which every practitioner should study.

Our readers will also be interested in the chapter on treatment, which may be briefly adverted to as follows. The chapter is a thoroughly comprehensive and commonsense one, with, as is natural, a bias towards early removal of the diseased appendix. Dr. Deaver favours removal "early in the attack—that is, within the first twenty-four hours, or, preferably, within the first twelve hours." There is, however, he admits, a "class of cases in which, particularly in the hands of general practitioners, the treatment by medical, as opposed to surgical, means is the part of discretion." We cannot help thinking that in such cases medical discretion will frequently be the better part of surgical valour. Notwithstanding his uncompromising recommendation of early removal, the author gives a most valuable account of the medical treatment, an account which, generally, we entirely approve of. He is in favour of thorough evacuation of the bowels early in the attack by castor oil, calomel, or salines. He favours the use of a local application of the ice-bag, a procedure the value of which we are not quite sure of; and he entirely condemns the use of opium, and, for the most part, we agree with him in this. The whole work is a most valuable one, and we heartily recommend it.

The Clinical Examination of Urine, with an Atlas of Urinary Deposits, including Forty-one Original Plates, mostly Coloured. By Lindley Scott, M.A., M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1900.

The author has succeeded in producing a most useful volume, useful alike to the physician in the wards or to the private practitioner in his consulting room. The first part of the volume contains an account of the methods of examining urine for clinical purposes, and calls for no special comment, as it is similar to that found in other well-known works on the subject. Indeed, in some respects we think it is not so good. We do not think that the picric acid test, as described on page 25, is likely to be accurate in its results, and the test by nitric acid and heat is one that must be most difficult to apply. The difficulty lies in the fact that we have nothing to guide us as to how much nitric acid should be added. We never employ the test. We have nothing, however, but praise for the excellent plates, 41 in number, which form the atlas.
of urinary sediments. These constitute the great merit of the book, and will be of great service to student and practitioner alike.

What to do in Cases of Poisoning. By William Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ninth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1900.

The first edition of this work was published in 1881; the eighth about two years ago. Its reputation is so widespread and of such standing that words of commendation from us are needless. It is enough to say that this booklet is admirably got up, and ought to have a permanent place in the bag, or close to the hand, of every medical practitioner.

The British Sanatoria Annual. With Numerous Illustrations. Second Year of Publication. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1900.

The great interest that is now being taken in the open-air treatment of phthisis, and the large number of institutions now open with this special purpose in view, fully justify the annual issue of a volume such as the present. It gives information of the very kind required by doctors, patients, and their friends. Thirty-one institutions are described, including those in Ireland and five in Scotland. The last are the Consumptive Sanatoria of Scotland, at Bridge of Weir; Knock-sualtach Sanatorium, at Kirkmichael, near Blairgowrie; the well-known Nordrach-on-Dee; the Victoria Hospital for Consumption, Craigleith, Edinburgh; and Woodburn Sanatorium, at Morningside, Edinburgh. In connexion with the description of Nordrach-on-Dee, it is stated that "leading German physicians have for years been sending patients to Deeside, and are now doing so in yearly increasing numbers." The treatment introduced by Brehmer some forty years since, and now associated with the name of Otto Walther and the sanatorium at Nordrach in the Black Forest, has obtained a firm footing in our islands, and cannot be ignored by the public, whether practitioners or laymen. The best way to learn about it, apart from visiting the institutions, is to procure this volume with its authoritative descriptions and excellent illustrations.
For half-a-crown we have in this book more than four hundred pages of most valuable information, in which everyone is sure to find something of interest. The war has brought things in South Africa into such a state of flux that the editors have been well advised in postponing a description of the great military campaign still in progress. The activities of the mines, the railways, and other tourist traffic have naturally been completely disarranged, so that in some details this volume does not possess its accustomed value, though we earnestly trust that the reason for this will soon cease to exist. Apart from these considerations, however, this "Guide" should be studied by everyone who is interested in South Africa, be he traveller, emigrant, invalid, physician, engineer, miner, shareholder, sportsman, fortune hunter, or unemployed. It should prove of service to many besides the great steamship company in whose interest it is primarily compiled.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE.

By JOHN G. GRAY, M.D., F.F.P.S.G.

Rheumatism in Children.—The Deutsche Medizinal Zeitung, 11th October, 1900, takes special note of a contribution on "Acute and Chronic Rheumatism in Children," by Dr. Curt Lachmanski, which appeared in Archiv. f. Kinderheilkunde, 1900, Bd. 28. The following are the principal points referred to:

In all, 73 cases of acute rheumatism were under observation and treatment in hospital; an examination of these formed the groundwork of the greater part of the paper. Sex was found to have no influence as regards the causation of acute rheumatism in children, the number affected being approximately the same in both. With regard to age, in the latter half of childhood the number of cases in which that disease appears is increased five-fold, and during the first half of childhood it is by no means rare.

Then as regards the time of year, it is found at all periods, and during all months. It is, however, most frequent in autumn, and the order of frequency is winter, summer, and lastly spring.