Electro-Therapy in Gynaecology. By Samuel Sloan, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G. London: William Heinemann. 1917. (12s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Sloan is to be congratulated on his book, to the production of which he has evidently given much time and labour, with the result that we find in it a succinct account of his experience of electro-therapy as applied to gynaecology, and of the conclusions to which that experience has led him.

The earlier portion of the work deals at considerable length with the subject of electro-physics; and while for experts in electrical matters this section may be superfluous, it is likely to be of much value to those who are beginning this line of treatment. It is followed by a description of the apparatus required in treating the various morbid conditions referred to in the latter half of the volume, and by a discussion of the principles of electro-therapeutics. Next comes a section devoted to those functional disorders of the cerebro-spinal nervous system, and of the abdomen, to which women are specially liable, and to their treatment by electro-therapy. The most important part of the work is given to the special consideration of pelvic disorders.

While we cannot agree with all the claims Dr. Sloan puts forward for his electrical methods of treatment, this record of what he has done in this branch of medication, of which he has a very large experience, is nevertheless of much interest. Roentgen-ray treatment is not dealt with, the author stating that his experience at present with x-rays is not sufficient to warrant his expressing an opinion for or against.

We notice that the paragraph on the treatment of cystitis concludes with this sentence: "I assume that none of the cases which I have treated was due to tubercle since the treatment
was successful with them all.” In view of the generally unfavourable results of the treatment of tuberculous cystitis, the assumption is no doubt correct, but it is surely better practice in all cases of cystitis first to ascertain the cause of the conditions, and then to institute appropriate treatment.

The appendix of about 120 pages consists of clinical notes on the many conditions the author has treated electrotherapeutically, and of a brief analysis of the results in each class of case. Dr. Sloan honestly gives his failures with his successes, and the reader is thus enabled to form an independent judgment. He will find in the whole volume material of much value in helping him to select cases to which this method of therapeutics is applicable.

Midwifery. By Ten Teachers. Under the Direction of Comyns Berkeley, M.A., M.D., M.C.Cantab., F.R.C.P.Lond. Edited by Comyns Berkeley, H. Russell Andrews, J. S. Fairbairn. London: Edward Arnold. 1917. (18s. net.)

This book has been written by ten of the London teachers, three of whom have acted as editors. Books produced in this way generally vary as to the value of different chapters, and this one is no exception to the rule. Broadly speaking, the theoretical parts are better than the practical. The first third is devoted to the physiology and pathology of pregnancy, and on the whole it is extremely well written. The toxaemias of pregnancy are discussed in a broad and comprehensive manner, but we distinctly object to the statement that if a patient has had one eclamptic fit the uterus is to be emptied. To advise a student that in such a case he is to do Cæsarean section, or to dilate the cervix with metal dilators until he can insert a de Ribes’ bag we consider to be wrong. It is news to us that the balance of opinion is in favour of this line of treatment. It may be in London, but it certainly is not in Scotland. The statistics they quote do not bear this out.

Peripheral neuritis is not dealt with. It is not a common disease, but when it does occur in a bad form, it is one of the most terrible complications one can meet with.

In dealing with heart disease, no mention is made of paralysis
of the heart from over-distension of the right side shortly after delivery, which sometimes occurs in cases of mitral stenosis. Berry Hart drew attention to this a good many years ago.

Labour; its mechanism and management, is well dealt with, but there are some methods of treatment to which we distinctly object, e.g., in delivering an after-coming head the student is advised to keep the head from becoming extended by placing his finger in the child’s mouth. In one sentence he is told not to make traction on the jaw, and in the next he is told “the finger in the jaw draws the face downwards.” How this can be done without making traction on the jaw passes our comprehension.

In dealing with face cases, the student is advised to attempt to push the forehead up by means of three fingers in the vagina, and to push the occiput downwards into the brim with the other hand on the abdomen. The diagram showing this is labelled, “Method of attempting the conversion of a face into a vertex presentation.” It strikes one forcibly that a student would not likely put much faith in a method which the authors call an attempt, and he would be quite right. There is a much simpler and more effectual method, but it has not been described.

The chapter on ante-partum hæmorrhages is extremely well done, but there is one statement to which we object, viz., “Patients afflicted with both eclampsia and unavoidable hæmorrhage should be delivered by Cæsarean section.” Why?

There is much in the book which is most praiseworthy, and it is extremely well illustrated. The authors state that “this book is frankly written for students preparing for their final examination,” and no doubt it will serve this purpose admirably for students of the London schools.

Physiology for Nurses. By W. B. Drummond, M.B., C.M., F.R.C.P.Ed. London: Edward Arnold. 1916. (2s. 6d. net.)

The aim of Mr. Drummond’s little volume is to supply nurses with a general conception of the subject of physiology, partly because he considers that it is as much as they have time for during their training, and partly because “the best way to
study a large new subject . . . is to begin by furnishing the mind with elementary facts and ideas which will enable the new knowledge to be retained and assimilated.” The second reason seems rather to discount the first. If nurses must go on beyond the scope of this book—and in many points they must if they are to have a rational basis for their work—then it is clear that they must at some point of their training find the time which Mr. Drummond says they have not got, and they may not unnaturally grudge spending some part of it on the preliminary study of his work. But to a nurse with no previous conception of bodily function the time so spent would not be wasted. It would give her clear ideas, accurately stated so far as they go, and if she held them clearly in her mind, she could more readily build upon them the necessary superstructure. For nurses at the outset of their training such a book as this may be cordially commended as a first step, if they understand that there are many steps to follow.

Nervous Disorders of Men. By Bernard Hollander, M.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Limited. 1916. (3s. 6d. net.)

Nervous Disorders of Women. By Bernard Hollander, M.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Limited. 1916. (3s. 6d. net.)

Abnormal Children. By Bernard Hollander, M.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Limited. 1916. (3s. 6d. net.)

Of these volumes, semi-popular in their scope—for the author states that they are intended not only for the profession but also for those who have the care of nerve patients, and for other lay readers desirous of practical and useful information on the subject—the first two are concerned with those nervous diseases of men and women in which the mental factor plays a large part, and which are to a greater or less extent amenable to treatment by suggestion, psychotherapy, and other measures
directed to the reversal of faulty mental habits. The third devotes itself to the nervous defects of children, to the various degrees of mental and moral deficiency in childhood and adolescence, to precocity and supernormality, and to the principles of a proper physiological and psychological education. The distinguishing feature of the three books is their insistence upon the psychological conception—Dr. Hollander calls it "the modern psychological conception"—of the various maladies described, and the attention devoted to psychological methods of healing as distinct from medicinal treatment or a passive attitude of laisser aller. Apart from the question how far it is desirable to treat the nervous disorders of men and those of women in separate volumes, a course which must lead to much unnecessary repetition, and also, in the lay mind, to an undue sharpness of differentiation where points of similarity should rather be sought for, it is doubtful whether the attempt to write at once for scientific and untrained minds is likely ever to be wholly successful. But in so far as the volumes are intended to explain to the laity how much of nervous illness has a non-physical origin, and to how great an extent such patients can be helped by the formation of right habits and by the judicious use of psychotherapeutic methods in the hands of qualified persons, they serve a useful purpose. The danger of all such books is that those who read them may think they know enough to set up as amateur psychotherapists.

_Nerve Injuries and their Treatment._ By Purves Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P., and Arthur Evans, M.D., F.R.C.S. Oxford Medical Publications. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1916. (8s. 6d. net.)

Nerve injuries are, if we may say so, peculiarly a feature of military surgery, and the appearance of the present volume is therefore highly opportune.

There is neither a preface nor an introduction, and the authors get to work without loss of time. This augurs well for the character of the book, and we are not disappointed as we read it. Every chapter, every page, bears the impress of the
writer's determination to get to bedrock at once and avoid dalliance by the way.

The opening chapter deals with the structure and functions of nerves, and the changes which take place after division. The methods of examination are described, followed by chapters on the methods of production of injuries of nerves, and on symptoms. Conditions simulating a peripheral nerve injury are considered in a separate chapter; this again is succeeded by chapters on prognosis and treatment of nerve-injuries. Separate chapters are devoted to individual nerves—cranial, brachial, and crural. These are taken up systematically, and the statements in the text are supported by clinical histories. The different chapters are freely illustrated, there being 97 figures in 190 pages of text. Most of the illustrations are from photographs of cases. The volume closes with an excellent index.

Although such is not stated, the work bears evidence of being largely the outcome of the authors' observations in military hospitals. The matter is clear and detailed, and there is an utter absence of padding. The volume should be in the hands of all officers of the medical services. By them as well as by their civilian brethren it will be found valuable to read, and equally valuable as a work of reference.

We desire to express our thanks to the authors for this admirable and unpretentious treatise, and at the same time to congratulate the publishers on the form in which they have sent it out.

The Influence of Joy. By Professor G. van Ness Dearborn. Mind and Health Series. London: William Heinemann. 1916. (5s. net.)

This volume, one of the "Mind and Health Series," is by the instructor in psychology and education at Sargent Normal School, Cambridge, U.S.A., one who is himself both a psychologist and a physicist, and who has made a special study of the influence of emotion upon bodily and mental health, and particularly of the influence of euphoric emotion upon creative efficiency. He is well qualified, therefore, to speak upon his subject, and it is one which in these days of death is too apt to
Reviews.

be forgotten or neglected. Joy, he seeks to show, is not only one of the most potent stimulants in the physician's armamentarium, it is a real food both to bodily and mental processes, not only temporarily quickening their activity, but also supporting it and making it more enduring. He discusses in the first part of his book its influence on nutrition, on the circulation, and on the nervous and reproductive systems; and in the second he applies the results he has demonstrated in enforcing the necessity of joy, and its essential place in all well-ordered work and life. If he is apt to be a little dithyrambic, the style consorts with the nature of his subject; and if at this time his enthusiasm should seem too facile to us who have walked in hell almost long enough to forget the blue, the more is he to be thanked for the courageous reminder that it is still above us.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis in General Practice. By Halliday G. Sutherland, M.D.Edin. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1916. (10s. 6d. net.)

This is a conveniently sized manual of 290 pages with good illustrations and clear type, also the use of thick type for headings facilitates reference. All aspects of the disease are considered and a good deal of space given to methods of physical diagnosis. Perhaps undue importance is attached to deviations from the normal in the examination of the chest when compared with the somewhat scant attention paid to symptoms. The author takes the view that "soil" is really the result of the pathological action of the "seed." "The seed creates the soil." The manual will be found very useful for anyone studying this most important subject.

I.K. Therapy in Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By William Barr, M.D., D.Sc.Glasg., D.P.H. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. (3s. 6d. net.)

This is a small book of 82 pages giving the author's results with Dr. Carl Spengler's "immune substances," commonly called
I.K. "Tuberculosis immune substances," according to Spengler, are manufactured and stored in the erythrocytes. Rabbits with living bacteria injected intramuscularly develop a high degree of bacteriolytic antitoxic immunity against tubercle bacilli and the bacteria frequently associated with them, and which are said to be responsible for secondary infection.

This blood is collected aseptically, acidified with lactic acid, and the bactericidal and antitoxic qualities adjusted; this constitutes the product I.K.

One c.c. of I.K. Original contains 1,000,000 lytic-antitoxic units. The lysins destroy the bacteria, causing tuberculosis, and the toxins liberated become neutralised by the antitoxins. A passive immunity is thus obtained, and the cells of the patient are protected from poisoning by bacterial toxins. They are thus able, in response to auto-inoculation of the neutralised toxins, to generate further immune substances, and thus an active immunity is obtained without any toxic effect. There is also the possibility of a further active immunity being generated by the lysinised bacteria and tubercle bacilli acting as vaccines. Thus I.K. itself contains no active immunising agents, but these are formed autogenously. It primarily produces passive immunity and secondarily active immunity.

Dilutions are made up as with tuberculin, and are given hypodermically or by the mouth.

The reaction appears to be very similar to that produced by tuberculin.

The author describes the type of case likely to benefit, such as (1) early febrile cases without great remissions; (2) more advanced febrile cases; (3) hectic cases—these naturally require careful treatment; (4) bronchitic cases; (5) cases with inverted temperature.

I.K. can thus be given to cases where tuberculin would be contra-indicated. The results of treatment in a series of cases by the author are given, together with their temperature charts and all details enabling the practitioner to judge the suitability of the remedy and the requisite dose in each individual case.