REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

An Introduction to Practical Bacteriology, as Applied to Medicine and Public Health. By T. J. Mackie, M.D. Glasg., D.P.H. Oxford, and J. E. McCartney, M.D., D.Sc. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1925. (8s. 6d. net.)

In the preface the authors state that their purpose has been to produce a handbook for medical students containing the essentials of practical bacteriology for use in the laboratory courses, and they have succeeded admirably. The book is well planned, and, as one would expect, the major part is devoted to technique—a subject which often receives scant attention in the larger text-books. The methods are lucidly described, and those recommended are obviously practical and useful. Amongst others, the chapters on the use of the microscope, the staining and cultivation of organisms, and their identification, reveal a great deal of painstaking and accurate work and happy exposition. Though primarily intended for medical students, the manual is also eminently suited for the public health and advanced bacteriology classes, and contains valuable information and references for the research worker on the more recent advances—notably in the investigation of the filterable viruses, and in modifications of the Smith-Noguchi technique. The book is well-printed, well sub-divided, and easy of reference. It can be confidently recommended.

The Chemistry of the Blood in Clinical Medicine. By O. L. V. de Wesselow, M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.P. Lond. London: Ernest Benn, Limited. 1924. (15s. net.)

In the preface the author states that, in his opinion, "the clinical value of blood chemistry lies chiefly in its application to three pathological states—diabetes and glycosuria, renal disease, and those conditions in which a tendency to a change in the reaction of the blood is present." These three conditions are gone into in detail in the book, and there is presented a very concise and readable résumé of the mass of literature which has grown up recently on
the blood in those conditions. A very excellent list of references is also given at the end of each chapter. The first part of the book describes in detail the normal composition of the blood. There is then an extremely interesting chapter on alkalosis and acidosis, the importance of the recognition and investigation of which is becoming more evident. The interpretation of the normal, and of the abnormal blood-sugar curves is given, along with a clearly put reasoning as to what is happening in the various organs concerned, and blood-sugar tests after administration of levulose are discussed with reference to liver efficiency. The blood-sugar in diseases of the endocrine organs, in infective conditions, and in chloroform and ether anaesthesia, is also described. Nephritis and its types—with various methods of estimating renal function—is discussed, with a chapter showing the importance of estimating blood creatinine and phosphates in attempting to form a prognosis. The chapter on the variations in the cholesterol content of the blood is of considerable interest, but one felt that the estimation might have been described in the chapter on methods. There is a wealth of information in the book, and we are indebted to the author for filling a long-felt want.

Greffe Animale: Applications Utilitaires au Cheptel. Par Serge Voronoff. Paris: Gaston Doin, Editeur. 1925.

The effects of testicular grafts in man is now well known through the work of M. Voronoff, but the application of the graft in animals has not received the same attention. This little book is concerned with the grafting of testicles in animals with the object of improving stock. The first chapter is devoted to a short historical survey, and a description of the method used to obtain a living graft which would continue to function—as far as the internal secretion was concerned. The graft was implanted on the inner or outer surface of the tunica vaginalis after scarifying the tunica in order to produce a congestion and a flow of nutritive fluid. By this means it was found that "the testicular fragments transplanted in the tunica vaginalis do not necrose nor remain as inert foreign bodies destined to be slowly absorbed by the surrounding tissues, but are able to continue to exist and even to develop." "In consequence the physiological phenomena which I observed in the animals are surely due, not to the opotherapy caused by slow destruction of the gland, but to an internal secretion persisting in the animal grafted." The second chapter of the book is occupied with the practical application of the
graft in the rearing of stock of various kind—sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, horses. "The grafted animal, realised at length, brings us a powerful means of forcing the animal organisms to give us a supply of wool and meat unknown up to now. . . . The problem is to create a breed of animal with more abundant and longer hair. Is this possible?" M. Voronoff hopes by means of grafting successive generations to produce a breed which would retain the acquired characteristics of the grafted animal. Extensive experiments were carried out in Algeria, and "the results are very encouraging," and further experiments are being carried out in Algeria and Tunis. The method has been applied to horses, and the Italian Government experimented with success at a remount depôt. M. Voronoff concludes that "the time is not far off when the animal graft, extensively and judiciously applied, will render the greatest service in augmenting the resources of a country." A final chapter is devoted to the technique of the operation.

Modern Operative Surgery. Edited by H. W. Carson, F.R.C.S.Eng. In Two Volumes. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1924. (33s. net.)

We welcome the publication of these two volumes, and congratulate the authors on having taken a strong line in excluding numerous antiquated, though renowned, operations, as being of little or no value nowadays. The scheme of the work is excellent, and the various sections have been written by surgeons who can speak with authority. They have been distinctly broad-minded in their selection of the various operative procedures. The work is certainly the best we have come across, and there is sure to be a big demand for it.

Manual of Psychiatry for the Medical Student and General Practitioner. By Paul E. Bowers, M.S., M.D., Examiner in Lunacy, State of California, &c. London: W. B. Saunders Company, Limited. 1924. (18s. net.)

This Manual covers the field of psychiatry in an efficient manner, but does not appear to have any advantage in that respect over several of the recognised text-books in use in this country, and it suffers from the burden of an extraordinarily detailed classification of the psychoses. It has the further disadvantage of giving no
guidance on legal matters from the British point of view, and the whole important subject of certification is completely ignored. It is interesting to observe that in this American work the subject of "psychoses due to alcohol," of which no fewer than twelve varieties are described, occupies more space than is devoted to dementia praecox, and nearly twice that allotted to manic-depressive states. The book is produced in the publishers' usual excellent (and expensive) style.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of the Infectious Diseases. By F. H. Thomson, M.B., C.M.Aberd., D.P.H. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1924. (7s. 6d. net.)

This book has been written for the use of medical practitioners to supply fuller and more practical information than is contained in ordinary text-books of medicine. To accomplish this, and yet to keep the book within convenient compass, has been the aim of the author, and in this he has proved very successful. Out of his long experience, and knowing the requirements of the practitioner, he has been able to make a careful selection of essentials. The important question of differential diagnosis is particularly well considered throughout, and the practical teaching as regards treatment is sound.

Lumbar Puncture. By Martin Pappenheim, M.D. Translated by George Caffrey. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited. 1924. (15s. net.)

This publication represents the first English edition of Professor Pappenheim's work, and comprises a monograph on the cerebro-spinal fluid. The anatomical and physiological considerations in connection with the origin, absorption, and circulation of the cerebro-spinal fluid are discussed in detail, with special reference to clinical considerations. The technique of lumbar puncture, its risks, contra-indications, and therapeutic applications are fully described. The remainder of the book is devoted to a detailed account of the various methods of investigating the cerebro-spinal fluid. Considerable space is allotted to the Wassermann reaction, and to the colloidal gold reaction of Lange, the view being expressed that the latter test, in the hands of the experienced worker, constitutes a substantial advance in the methods of investigating the spinal fluid. The conclusions drawn
by the author are non-dogmatic, and the view is expressed that the various fluid findings must be considered in correlation with the clinical picture. An appendix contains a chapter on encephalography and on the technique of puncture of the cisterna magna. The bibliography is extensive, but contains little, if any, reference to work of other than Continental origin. The publication is necessarily of a highly technical nature, and will be of value chiefly to neurologists and laboratory workers.

_Aids to Public Health._ By W. G. Aitchison Robertson, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1923. (3s. 6d. net.)

This is a useful little handbook for giving a bird's eye view of the subject of public health as it is required from the medical student. It is only as a refresher that it should be used, being too abbreviated and condensed in many parts to convey any information, except to the mind that is already prepared. In a future edition a reference might be made under humidity to the kata-thermometer, and a list of prevailing winds given.

**NEW EDITIONS.**

_A Manual of Gynaecology for Students and Practitioners._ By Samuel J. Cameron, M.B., B.Ch.Glasg., F.R.F.P.S.G. Third Edition. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1925. (25s. net.)

In gynaecological literature Dr. Cameron has staked out a corner all his own. We welcome the third edition of his "Gynaecology," and we expect to see many more editions. The book has now an established reputation with both students and practitioners. The third edition is a distinct improvement on its predecessors. The chapter dealing with the ductless glands has been enlarged and brought up to date. The discussion of prolapse and its treatment is one of the author's strong suits, and we are interested to note that Dr. Cameron has now no place for abdominal surgery in the treatment of this condition. We think "he doth protest too much" on this point. The pathological sections are concise and well written, with, here and there, refreshing assertions of the author's own strongly held opinions. Dr. Cameron is pre-eminently at home in the discussion of operative details, and in this department the
book abounds in good things. We have come on one or two printers' errors, e.g., on page 109, line 3, "inconceivable" should obviously be "conceivable."

**Clinical Methods.** By **Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P.**, and **Harry Rainy, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.S.E.** Eighth Edition.
London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1924. (12s. 6d. net.)

To those engaged in clinical work—be they students, practitioners, or teachers—the eighth edition of this valuable aid will be welcome. This book has become one of the few standard clinical guides, and the present edition has been thoroughly revised to meet present-day needs. Amongst valuable additions to the text we may note specially the sections on fractional test meals, Van den Bergh's test, the estimation of blood sugar and blood urea, and the urea concentration test. Owing to the untimely and lamented death of Dr. Harry Rainy the work is now very largely that of Dr. Hutchison, and the present edition worthily maintains the high standard of its predecessors.

**Materia Medica and Therapeutics.** By **B. N. Ghosh, F.R.F.P.S.G.**
Tenth Edition. Calcutta: Hilton & Co. 1925. (10s. 6d. net.)

That this book has reached its tenth edition is sufficient proof of its popularity as a text-book for students. It has been very carefully revised and brought up to date, and is not only a reliable work on materia medica, but it also contains much useful material on the therapeutics side. Naturally, as it finds its chief market in India and the tropics, many drugs are dealt with which are little used in this country, but its scope is so comprehensive that no important drug has been omitted. The whole is well arranged, and compares very favourably with other works on the subject. It may be regarded as a useful book of reference for medical practitioners.

**A System of Radiography, with an Atlas of the Normal.** By **W. Ironside Bruce.** Second Edition. Edited by **J. Magnus Redding, F.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.** London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1924. (30s. net.)

This Atlas has been considerably improved in its new issue. The author has confined himself mainly to reproductions of radiographs of No. 6.
the normal bones, taken at the ages of 5, 10, and 25 years. The radiographs are a considerable improvement on the original edition, which is only to be expected from the advances in radiographic technique which have taken place in the interval between the two editions. The number of radiographs has been increased, thus increasing the value of the work. There is very little letterpress, only the principal developmental anatomical abnormalities being mentioned. A feature of the new edition is the recommendation of the editor of the adoption of standard position for the radiography of bones and joints, a simple matter when dealing with normal structures, but by no means easy when a limb is cumbered with splints. The book should prove very useful to those who desire a complete series of normal radiographs of the osseous skeleton.

Aids to Surgery. By Joseph Cunning, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.Eng., and Cecil A. Joll, M.S.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. Fifth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1924. (4s. 6d. net.)

This book for its size contains a wealth of information, and should be a distinct help to students reading for their final examination.

Elementary Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses. By H. Clifford Barclay, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. & S.E. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1924. (12s. net.)

This book has not only been revised and brought up to date, but has been considerably enlarged in the present edition. The author has kept his audience well in view, and has furnished a very complete and readable book for nurses. Certainly some of its contents may be regarded as rather advanced, and to some extent outside the prescribed syllabus, but they serve as connecting links towards a fuller knowledge than is necessarily required for examinations alone. A chapter on psychology has been added, its matter has been carefully selected and should prove useful. The subject of diabetes mellitus and diet receives very full treatment, and this is justified by the fact that to-day nurses take such an important part in the dieting of such patients, so that some detailed knowledge of diets and their caloric values is now necessary. The diagrams which are used in illustration throughout attain a high standard of excellence.