that confront the clinician in the wards have often to be considered in terms of the basic sciences. Here is a book which gives a short but clear and authoritative account of this whole field. It could probably be read by all medical graduates.

SURGICAL ANATOMY.

Les McArthur's "Synopsis of Surgical Anatomy" has reached its seventh edition in eighteen years. Little more need be said of its popularity. There are several improvements in this edition; these include Milligan's observations on the ano-rectal region and new chapters on transthoracic surgery and on the surgery of the blood vessels. The section on the sympathetic nervous system has been improved, but there is no mention of the anterior approach by the modified method of Fey, advocated by Stock, of Liverpool, and becoming more popular.

There is no mention of the important work of Fiolle and Delmas on the exposure of main arteries. Needlelessly mutilating incisions are recommended for the head, and insufficient attention has been paid to the work of Iselin and Bunnell.

There are still some errors, such as the old cadaveric idea about the length of the small bowel, and the statement that azygos means median.

COMMON DISEASES OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

In "Common Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat" the author, Philip Reading, has produced a book which is suitable for the undergraduate and for the general practitioner. It is not intended to be a book of reference for the specialist.

This small volume is confined to essential facts. Operative techniques have been afforded but little space, whereas complications of operations such as tonsillectomy and tracheotomy have been described at some length. Although the description of anatomy has been reduced to a minimum, the diagrams are very clear. These two factors tend to "spot light" those structural details, which are of importance in diagnosis and treatment. They succeed in linking the manifestations of diseases with aberrations of the underlying structure and function of the ear, nose and throat.

The paper, print and illustrations are good and the context is very clear. Unfortunately no short list of references or recent literature has been included at the end of the chapters. This would have been very useful to newly qualified practitioners.

CURRENT THERAPY.

The first edition of "Current Therapy, 1949: Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practicing [sic] Physician" was reviewed in this journal on October 29, 1949. The 1950 edition has now appeared. Dr. Howard F. Conn is again the editor. The general plan was outlined in the previous review. The editor reemphasizes that this is not a "review of the literature" or "recent advances" of type of work, but rather a record of procedure actually carried out by the contributing physician. The reader is, as it were, the proxy to the practice, of many well-known American clinics.

As expected, knowledge of the newer antibiotics has required a complete revision of the section on infectious diseases. It is strange that, although meningococcal infection is fully dealt with, the important influenzal, pneumococcal and tuberculous meningitides are scarcely mentioned. Among other established discoveries vitamin B, now receives full recognition, and a few others have found their place. As before, most sections make a good impression; a few do not. In status epilepticus and tetanus respectively. Neither mentions the necessity for treatment. The method of "Etamon" is still advocated, on very questionable grounds, for certain cases of acute coronary insufficiency.

The careful practitioner would thus still do well to satisfy himself of the safety of some of the measures proposed before accepting them as they stand. Read in this critical spirit, the book will offer him much that is helpful. Type and arrangement are, as before, excellent. The price and the difficulty, inherent in such a work, of striking a balance between up-to-dateness and avoidance of unproved methods, may make the reader hesitate to add the book to his library every year. He might conclude that, with other reading, every two years would do.

RADIATION THERAPY IN CARCINOMA OF THE CERVIX.

Anyone who is called upon to treat cancer of the cervix will find much of interest and value in Simeon T. Cantril's recent monograph dealing with radiation therapy in the management of this disease.

Pathological considerations include the new concept that epidermoid cervical cancers have a dual ancestry. Pre-invasive carcinoma is recognized, but only as a microscopic diagnosis, and giving no indication of the actual clinical stage. The author estimates that pelvic metastases may be expected in 16% to 20% of Stage I cases and repeatedly emphasizes that control by irradiation of cancer in the lymph nodes must be extremely rare. The point is made that radiation therapy can never be a matter of slavish routine; in each case presents an individual problem and treatment must be adjusted to the patient's general condition and to