REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

A Text-Book of Biochemistry for Students of Medicine and Science. By A. T. Cameron, M.A., D.Sc., F.I.C., F.R.S.C. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1928. (15s. net.)

This text-book is based on lectures delivered to students of medicine, and the subject-matter is mainly of a physiological nature. In the first section, after an introductory chapter on the development of biochemistry, catalysis and enzyme action are discussed and also the significance of H-ion concentration in biochemical reactions. The chemistry of the food components is fully treated, though in a text-book for students the chapter on suggested new nomenclature might have been omitted. The chemistry of digestion, the circulation, and the excreta, together with a series of chapters on intermediate and quantitative metabolism and the chemistry of reproduction occupy the greater part of the text. Mineral metabolism is too shortly treated, however, and the chief constituents of the excreta are somewhat inadequately described. The last section, which contains an introduction to the chemistry of immunology and pharmacology and a brief account of biochemical processes in industry, does not alter materially the character of the work or extend its scope. Exception might be taken to the inclusion of very recent research work which still requires confirmation, as, for example, in the chapter on vitamins, though on the whole the subject-matter has been selected judiciously. A few inaccuracies in the mineral content of the tissues require correction. The book should prove very useful to medical and science students in classes of physiological chemistry.

Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital Medical Report for the Year 1926. Prepared by J. Norman Cruickshank, M.D., F.R.F.P.S.G., M.R.C.P.Lond. Glasgow: William Hodge & Co., Limited.

This Report contains the clinical statistical records of the Hospital for the year 1926. To those specially interested in midwifery the information and figures supplied make a fascinating study. The most outstanding feature probably is the large proportion of abnormal cases. This first medical report has
entailed much work and shows evidence of great care in its preparation. The directors of the Hospital and Dr. Cruickshank are to be congratulated on its production.

How to Start in General Practice. By Isaac G. Briggs, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: John Murray. 1928. (6s. net.)

Dr. Briggs has written a very interesting booklet on the interesting subject of starting in general practice. The novice should be able to avoid many pitfalls from a study of its condensed wisdom and shrewd advice. For, as the author points out, the young doctor of to-day has no apprenticeship as formerly to guide him when he himself comes to start. This is a book to be confidently recommended to all young graduates, and may save them time and money.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Glasgow for 1927. Glasgow: Robert Anderson.

The new issue of this valuable series of reports is full of interesting information about the many activities that are now mustered under the M.O.H.'s banner. The bulk is made up of statistics which are compared with those of previous years to show the various trends. The summary on p. 23 shows that with an increased population (from annexation) and a diminished density per acre, there is a diminishing death-rate and birth-rate, and a slightly varying low infant mortality. The figures are briefly discussed and compared with those of other towns, but it would be a far more real view of things as they are if an intensive study of any one patch of the city were made, and the details carefully exposed. All massing of figures hides their origins and real meanings, and that is why the actual experience of a trained observer enables the latter to detect the fallacies of those who speak only from paper. The report tries, as far as it can afford the space, to keep the reader alive to the fallacies of statistics, and the table on p. 26 shows the great fall both in the legitimate and the illegitimate birth-rates since the high-rate periods of last century. It would be very interesting to have the Table V in the Appendix dealt with in the same fashion, or at least, two wards, such as Dalmarnock or Calton, contrasted with, say, Kelvinside. The other parts of the Report can only be alluded to here, namely, the administrative, clinical, and sanitary records. There is an interesting analysis of the cases of puerperal fever dealt with in Belvedere Hospital during the year which might be reprinted with the table on p. 74 and distributed to the
large circle of those at present discussing the problems of childbirth. On p. 332, under "Number of Pregnancies," it is stated that "the first pregnancy is the most susceptible." Another line of the table might show the relative frequencies of the different pregnancies for the total births in the city area. This does not seem to be available from any of the tables published in the Report. Note.—In table on p. 74, the rate per 1,000 births given at foot for totals should be 11 instead of 15.

The Examination of the Central Nervous System. By Donald Core, M.D.Manc., F.R.C.P.Loud. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1928. (8s. 6d. net.)

This conveniently small book is intended primarily for the use of medical students who have not completed their training in neurology. The routine examination of the motor and sensory systems and of the cranial nerves is described and special chapters are devoted to the patient's mental state, systematic case-taking, the examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid and the testing of the electrical reactions. It is perhaps a pity that space has not been found to increase the number of diagrams, as this method of illustration is always of value in the teaching of neurology. Some of the few diagrams and illustrations which are given are hardly of sufficient importance to warrant their inclusion. It is also noticeable that little if any reference is made to the peripheral nervous system. Apart from these minor reservations there can be no doubt that the book has fulfilled its author's purpose, and Dr. Core is to be congratulated on an eminently lucid and sound introduction to clinical neurology, which should be of much assistance to students preparing for the final examination in medicine.

The Medical Annual, 1928. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. (20s. net.)

It is not possible to say anything new of the Medical Annual. The book continues to be a marvel of catholicity, condensation, and, on the whole, critical acumen. There is hardly a relevant subject—from unexpected swellings of the abdomen to the use of zinc sulphate in corneal ulcer—on which this volume does not throw some light. The most interesting event of the year is probably the establishment of the doctrines of Minot and Murphy in the treatment of Addisonian anaemia. Drs. F. R. Fraser and Ivor Davies do the subject full justice in an incredibly small space. Another very present problem is dealt with by Sir
W. de Courcy Wheeler in the light of recent work. He writes on "Pre- and Post-Operative Treatment." If there is any change apparent in this excellent series, it is in the direction of a more individual and personal touch in the articles. This is pleasantly obvious in the essay by Hey Groves on synovitis; in Moynihan's survey of the results of splenectomy; in Purvis Stewart's account of epilepsy; and more especially in Colonel Lister's delightful little homily on eye affections. The section on pharmacy remains as optimistic as ever, but is fortunately shorter than usual. The plates are, as usual, very good. They are particularly good in the section on x-rays, which are the subject of a brilliantly written review by Dr. Thurstan Holland. His work, and that of Dr. Howard Pinch, who writes on the present position of radium therapy, are outstanding features in an excellent production.

How to Keep Young. By Edwin Wooton. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1928. (3s. 6d. net.)

This clever book consists of a series of chapters without headings or annotations to guide the reader, who is hurried along pleasantly like the syncopated person from "bar to bar." The "bars" are presided over by the author, who gives his reasoned judgments on many varied topics in aphoristic prose. There is much sanity in his writings, and his conclusions on the newer medical fads are quite refreshing. Altogether a very stimulating stock-taking of the field of medical physiology and psychology is here given.

Diagnosis and Treatment in Diseases of the Lungs. By Frank E. Tylecote, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.Lond., and George Fletcher, M.A., M.D.Glas., M.R.C.P.Lond., D.P.H.Camb. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (7s. 6d. net.)

After a short account of the anatomy of the lungs, the methods of physical examination of the chest are fully but concisely described. Succeeding chapters deal with the various diseases of the bronchi and lungs. Considerable space is given to bronchitis, bronchiectasis and emphysema, and the chapter on asthma and hay fever is complete and full of common sense. There is a very full account of pleurisy, and an excellent chapter on pneumonia. The authors find that the antiserum of type 1, given intravenously, is definitely beneficial in the treatment of pneumonia. Alcohol is used with discrimination, and rectal or intravenous injections of saline are considered useful. Many will disagree with the
statement that Dover's powder is safer than morphine. All the other diseases of the lungs, including tumours and mediastinal growths, receive adequate treatment, and the last quarter of the book is occupied by tuberculosis of the lungs. In this there is a very sane chapter on x-ray diagnosis. The book, which is pleasantly written and well got up, has no illustrations. It is of handy size and free from padding, but contains all the essential facts. It can be thoroughly recommended to students and practitioners as a safe guide to the diseases of the lungs.

Aids to Dispensing. By A. O. Bentley, Ph.C. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1928. (3s. 6d. net.)

If the object of the "Aids to Students Series" is to set before the student a clear, concise account of a subject, stripped of its less important and wearisome details, Mr. Bentley has succeeded admirably in his task. The work is much more than a mere "Aid," being, in fact, a text-book in miniature. It offers to the medical student all the information he needs, while it will enable the student of pharmacy to collocate the knowledge gained from lectures and larger text-books.

Brain and Mind. By R. J. A. Berry, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.S. Edin. New York: The Macmillan Company, Limited. 1928. (31s. 6d. net.)

The author of this book is not only a distinguished Professor of Anatomy, but has the unusual distinction of being a consulting psychiatrist as well. The blend is not a happy one. The first part of the book (400 pages) is devoted to an excellent account of the structure and function of the nervous system, while the second part (100 pages) deals in the most schematic way with the nervous system in health and disease. The author takes as his text the dogma, "No neurone, no mind," and those who may be more psychologically-minded than himself are treated with contempt. Two short samples of his reasoning give the best idea of his point of view:—"Neurology is, therefore, the only true psychology, and only neurology can explain the phenomena of mind, because it alone studies the neuron, which is the physical instrument of mind" (p. 453). "Were a systematic microscopic examination made of the cortical cells of all patients who have died after having suffered from many of the neuroses and the so-called psycho-neuroses, it is very probable that amentia would be found to be the common underlying physical factor." The book is much too biased to be a
safe guide. Glib statements are made about aments passing into dementia praecox states, while recurrent cases of all types, hysteria, epileptic insanity, true paranoia, and allied cases show histologically the changes of "amentia plus dementia." These statements are not supported by satisfactory evidence, either clinical or histological. Such divergent conditions as Huntington's chorea, epilepsy, and hysteria are grouped together as examples of cerebral insufficiency due to lack of "normal numbers of cortical neurons," but the number of cortical neurons constituting normality is not stated.

The Flushings of the Menopause. By John H. Hannan, M.D. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927. (3s. 6d. net.)

This is a short monograph giving some interesting observations regarding the common complaint at the menopause and discussing possible lines of treatment. Flushing is regarded as a "vasomotor crisis," and the author has been able to record in a few cases the changes in blood-pressure and pulse-rate associated with an attack. The opinions expressed regarding causation of symptoms at the menopause and their treatment are of interest and may be useful, but it should be borne in mind that they are founded on examination of a small amount of material.

Aspects of Rheumatism and Gout: Their Pathogeny, Prevention, and Control. By Llewellyn Jones Llewellyn, M.B.Lond. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Limited. 1927. (10s. net.)

It has sometimes been said that the bane of medicine has been the speculative philosophy of the schools. We think that in some ways support could be found for this opinion in the volume under review. For the greater part of the work, which consists of a collection of the author's essays and addresses, is taken up with a highly speculative account of what he considers to be the factors underlying the rheumatic diathesis. "Endocrine-autonomic imbalance" resulting in "subthyroidism" or the "thyrotoxic state," vitamin-deficiency, "cosmo-telluric influences" such as iodine-deficiency, are considered to prepare the soil on which rheumatism grows, while the exciting or determining cause may be infections exciting their action "through the medium of anaphylaxis." He sees in gouty heredity the transmission of a tendency to protein sensitisation, and the attacks as being anaphylactic in nature. All this may be true, and we are unable to offer any criticism. For many of the terms
employed are vague, while that long-suffering word anaphylaxis has undergone remarkable transformations in meaning since it was coined by Richet. The remaining chapters are devoted to a discussion of the pitfalls which beset the diagnosis of lumbago, sciatica, and arthritis, and of the relationship of oral sepsis to arthritis. In these the author brings a great wealth of clinical experience to bear on the subject, and they are eminently worth perusing.

NEW EDITIONS.

Treatment by Manipulation: A Practical Handbook for the Practitioner and Student. By A. G. Timbrell Fisher, M.C., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1928. (9s. net.)

This small volume is the second edition of the book originally called "Manipulative Surgery" and it is an excellent testimonial to the useful nature of the book that a new edition has been required so soon. Mr. Fisher draws attention to the unsatisfactory position at present existing as regards the non-qualified bone-setter, and emphasises the fact that it is essential to instruct the medical student in manipulative surgery. The various manipulations of the individual joints are described and illustrative cases quoted, the instructions being given in an interesting and graphic manner. The illustrations are numerous and good and the letterpress excellent. We can commend the book to our readers.

Food, Health, Vitamins. By R. H. A. Plimmer, D.Sc.Lond., and Violet G. Plimmer. London: Longmans, Green & Co., Limited. 1928. (Cloth, 3s.; Paper, 2s.)

This is a new edition of "Food and Health" first published in 1925, and of which a second edition was issued the following year. The change in title is to distinguish it from others with the same one. Very considerable alterations in the reading matter have been made to bring it up to date with the great amount of research on vitamins during the past few years. The coloured frontispiece, "A Square Meal," has also suffered changes, and supplies as heretofore an excellent summation of all the facts. It can also be had separately on cardboard for wall use. It is becoming more and more apparent that good nutrition is the best basis for private and public well-being, and Professor Plimmer's book gives the most popular and authoritative account of modern ideas of diet. It should be read by all those interested in the public health.
A Text-Book of Infectious Diseases. By Goodall and Washbourn. Third Edition, Revised and Partly Rewritten by E. W. Goodall, O.B.E., M.D.B.S.Lond. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1928. (30s. net.)

As nineteen years have elapsed since the second edition appeared, it is only natural that the great advances made in the study of these diseases, more particularly along the lines of bacteriology and immunology, should call for extensive and radical revision. The author has carried this out thoroughly, and, indeed, has largely rewritten many parts to bring the contents up to the standard looked for in an up-to-date text-book on the subject. New chapters on epidemic poliomyelitis and encephalitis have been included, while epidemiology and the "epidemic constitution" have found a place in the introductory chapter. The book is freely illustrated by charts and diagrams, while the photographs and the coloured plates of various rashes are of a very high standard. The student in search of a reliable text-book, or the practitioner in need of a standard book for reference, cannot do better than to acquire this new edition.

Surgical "Don'ts" (and "Do's"). Second (Enlarged) Edition. By C. Hamilton Whiteford, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: Harrison & Sons, Limited. 1928. (4s. net.)

This little book contains much commonsense in its fifteen articles, and could be read with profit by all budding surgeons and by many of their elder brothers. The "Don'ts" are expressed clearly in a minimum of words, and are backed by judgment and experience.

The Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By Dr. Marc Jaquerod. Second English Edition, Revised by S. F. Silberbauer, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1927. (1s. 6d. net.)

Written from the Continental point of view, Dr. Jaquerod's little manual contains a wealth of useful information suitable for the guidance of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. The present edition has been thoroughly revised, and should prove useful to many sufferers, especially to those undergoing treatment abroad.

In our last issue (August) the price of Segregation and Autogamy in Bacteria (published by Adlard & Son, Limited, London) was stated to be 27s. 6d. net. This should have been 7s. 6d. net. We regret the error.