REVIEWS OF
BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Heart Disease and Aneurysm of the Aorta. By Sir William H. Broadbent, Bart., K.C.V.O., and John F. H. Broadbent, M.A., M.D. (Oxon.). Fourth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox.

Although Sir William Broadbent’s name appears on the title-page, we are led to infer from the preface that for the major part of the revision and rearrangement of the fourth edition of this well-known treatise Dr. J. F. H. Broadbent is responsible. While the whole book has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, we may single out for special mention the new chapters—namely, those on the pulse, on diseases of the coronary arteries, on bradycardia, and on atheroma of the aorta. The description of the methods of examining the pulse is on the whole clear and simple. The phrase “arterial tension” is defined as the strain exerted on the vessel wall by the constant mean blood pressure, by which latter expression is meant the degree of pressure in the vessel after the wave has passed, or, in other words, between the beats. We should prefer to describe this as the minimum blood pressure, in contrast to that during the height of the pulse wave, or maximum blood pressure. The expression “mean” conveys to the mind the idea of an average pressure somewhere between that during the passage of the wave and that in the intervals, and seems to us less accurate than minimum blood pressure. It would certainly be an advantage could the expression “arterial tension” be abolished altogether. Clifford Allbutt’s use of the phrase, which Dr. Broadbent justly criticises, shows how indefinite its meaning is. After succinctly discussing the sources of error in the determination of blood pressure by the sphygmomanometer, Dr. Broadbent gives (p. 25) as a means of estimating the arterial tension, the pressure which “has to be made by the finger before the flow of blood is arrested and the pulse wave obliterated.” But is not this a measure of the maximum blood pressure rather than of the arterial tension? In aortic incompetence, for example, a great deal of force may be required to obliterate the wave, yet here (pace Dr. Clifford Allbutt) the tension is low. It is surely more correct to say that the tension (minimum or mean blood pressure) of the pulse may be estimated, either by attempting to roll the vessel under the finger between beats, or, which the student usually finds simpler, by
noting the force required to elicit a wave of the greatest amplitude. If much force be needed, the tension is high; if little, the tension is low. The physics of the pulse is notoriously a complicated subject, but, unless we have misunderstood him, in the passage quoted Dr. Broadbent appears to have confounded the maximum and the minimum (or mean) pressure. In the chapter on diseases of the coronary arteries, attention is drawn to the fact that thrombosis of the vessels is a not uncommon, though seldom recognised, cause of death. The chief feature of the section on bradycardia is, as might be anticipated, a description of Stokes-Adams disease, while other forms of infrequent pulse are but briefly mentioned. In this and the other chapters on functional disorders due recognition is given to Gibson’s work on the nervous affections of the heart. The account of atheroma contains a good summary of the various pathogenetic theories which are now entertained. We had noted many points throughout the book for mention in this review, but have already overstepped the space at our disposal. We cannot conclude, however, without drawing particular attention to the very valuable suggestions relative to prognosis with which the book abounds. Sir William Broadbent’s long experience gives to his matured opinions the greatest weight, and the paragraphs on the subject will well repay the most thoughtful study, for the importance of being able to forecast the progress of a case of cardiac disease is equalled only by the difficulty of the task, and if for nothing else than its value as a guide to this, the book should be in the library of every practitioner. Taking it as a whole, the new edition more than maintains the reputation which its predecessors have won.

International Clinics. Edited by A. O. J. Kelly, M.D. Vol. I., Series 16. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co.

The sixteenth series of this well-known periodical is inaugurated with a volume of outstanding excellence. Among the articles on medicine the foremost place must be given to a very instructive paper by Dr. Lewis Somers on the different forms of membranous tonsillitis, in which, among others, Vincent’s angina, a variety of tonsillitis that has attracted some attention of late, is well depicted and described. Wood alcohol poisoning has recently become very common in America, and Dr. Wood contributes an account of its symptoms, entering a plea for the adoption in the United States of methylating, or rendering untaxed alcohol undrinkable by the addition of wood spirit, as a substitute for the deodorised and purified (and therefore potable) methyl-alcohol which is used in the arts there. Although of average merit, the papers on surgery and treatment call for no special mention. In obstetrics, Dr. De Lees discusses the treatment of eclampsia with reference to rapid delivery. In his concise survey of the subject we think he lays too little stress on the question of eclampsia as a sign of thyroid inadequacy. Dr. Simon contributes a study of eosinophilia in trichinosis, which is singularly elaborate and complete, inasmuch as the author was the patient, and had ample opportunities of observing his own case. The volume concludes
with the annual review of progress during 1905, and, as on a previous occasion, we feel bound to single out Dr. Bloodgood's retrospect of surgery as a model well worthy of imitation.

A Treatise on Diagnostic Methods. By Prof. Dr. Hermann Sahli, University of Bern. Edited, with additions, by F. P. Kinnicutt, M.D., and N. B. Potter, M.D. Translation from the Fourth German Edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company.

On its first appearance twelve years ago, Sahli's "Lehrbuch der klinischen Untersuchungs-methoden" at once took a place in the foremost rank of works on clinical diagnosis. The reason was not far to seek, for it was not, as so many of its companions are, a more or less successful compilation, but the fruit of the personal experience of an indefatigable worker and student of clinical diagnosis. Professor Sahli has always deliberately chosen to lay his original work before the profession in the pages of successive editions of a text-book, instead of, like the majority of observers, contributing them to journals, and hence the book has an almost unique character. On comparing this translation of the fourth edition with the original German edition of 1894, we find scarcely a paragraph unaltered; the size of the book has nearly doubled; and in the author's preface almost three closely printed pages are occupied by a mere enumeration of the additions and emendations which the new edition contains. It is, of course, quite impossible within reasonable compass to attempt any detailed analysis of so copious a work. It should, however, be stated that the book is far more than a guide to diagnostic methods, fully as it treats of these, for the author discusses thoroughly and exhaustively the interpretation of clinical phenomena both in their physiological and pathological aspects. He deals with all forms of clinical research—instrumental, case taking, physical examination, chemistry, microscopy, etc.—and the result is probably the most generally useful side-room handbook we possess. The translation has been well done, and the added matter, whether from the pen of the editors or in the form of illustrations and plates, enhances its value. In its English dress we feel sure that "Diagnostic Methods" will be as widely appreciated here as the "Untersuchungs-methoden" is in Germany.

Diseases of the Anus and Rectum. By D. H. Goodsall, F.R.C.S., and W. Ernest Miles, F.R.C.S. Part II. London: Longmans, Green, & Co.

After an interval of nearly five years, the second part of this work has appeared. The first chapter deals with prolapse of the rectum, of which the authors recognise two forms—prolapsus mucose recti and procidentia recti. The distinction is a useful one, and the descriptions presented are clear and accurate. The weakest part of this chapter is that devoted
to treatment. In their preface, it is true, the authors profess only to set forth those methods of treatment which, from personal experience, they have found to yield the most satisfactory results. With this arrangement we have no fault to find; on the contrary, we are anxious to have the results of their extensive experience, but we submit that in a work such as this we are at least entitled to know the grounds on which our authors reject methods of treatment which in the hands of others have proved highly satisfactory. In this and in other sections, for example that on pruritus ani, we fail to find any mention of methods which we constantly employ with satisfaction, and we are left in doubt as to whether the authors have found them wanting or have never given them a trial.

A short but very useful chapter follows on invagination of the rectum, a condition liable to give rise to difficulties of diagnosis, which are clearly described.

Ulceration is fully discussed, special attention being paid to a form of infective ulceration of which the authors apparently saw a good deal at St. Mark's Hospital prior to its being rebuilt in 1895. As this condition appears now to have little more than an historical interest, it seems to receive more than its share of attention, and bacteriological reports dated 1894 seem somewhat belated.

The discussion of malignant disease is comprehensive, judicial, and practical.

The work is fully illustrated, but we scarcely think that the figures are so uniformly successful as those in the first part of the work.

---

Abdominal Pain: its Causes and Clinical Significance. By A. Ernest Maylard, M.B., B.Sc. (Lond.) London: J. & A. Churchill.

Having long been familiar with Mr. Maylard's work on the surgery of the abdomen, we took up his book on abdominal pain with high expectations, and we have not been disappointed. We do not, of course, find in Mr. Maylard's pages any categorical statement regarding the precise cause and the exact clinical significance of each of the almost infinite variety of painful manifestations met with in abdominal disease. To have expected this would have been to ask too much of the clinician, —and it is as a clinician that Mr. Maylard writes,—and to complain of failing to find it would be unreasonable. The author, indeed, himself anticipates and to a great extent discounts, criticism on these lines, by admitting in his preface "that possibly the weakest part of my effort, and yet the very part that I had, at first, hoped to render the most complete, is that which deals with the regional manifestation of pain and the tabulation of its probable causes." We cannot say we regret that he has given up the attempt to lay down dogmatically the diagnostic significance of every form and site of pain. In the nature of things any such effort must of necessity have been strained and artificial, and it is obviously undesirable that any one symptom, least of all one so purely subjective and depending so much on the personal equation, should have a predominant importance attached to it for diagnostic purposes. This the author has evidently kept in mind, and
the result is that we have here a carefully reasoned and well-balanced analysis of pain as one symptom of abdominal disease.

An excellent description of the nerve supply of the walls and cavity of the abdomen, and of its contained visceræ, serves as a helpful introduction to the more clinical part of the work. We miss, however, any reference to Lennander's important investigations on the sensibility of the peritoneum and the visceræ, without which no discussion of the subject of abdominal pain can be complete.

After a short practical chapter on the clinical methods of investigating pain and tenderness, the author takes up each organ individually, and describes the characteristics of the pain produced by the different diseases which affect it. To meet the clinical requirements of such a discussion, a consideration of the pain associated with diseases of such extra-peritoneal organs as the kidney, bladder, and testis, and with affections of the spine and cord, and the lungs and pleura, is included. Regional pain—epigastric, antero-lateral, hypochondriac, lumbar, iliac, dorsal, etc.—is next considered, and tabulated lists of all the conditions which may give rise to any one of these regional pains are given. We confess we find it of little help in seeking for a possible explanation of acute epigastric pain, to read over a list of nearly ninety different affections which may account for it, ranging from acute gastritis, through perforation of the duodenum, volvulus of the small intestine, appendicitis, acute proctitis, pancreatic apoplexy, renal colic, rupture of the uterus, to hysteria and lead colic. These lists are doubtless very complete, but through them we can scarcely see the wood for the trees.

Apart from the lists, the narrative in these sections is extremely good, and bears the imprint of close personal observation and thoughtful study. The subject-matter is presented on the whole in a clear and convincing manner, but here and there we meet with passages the meaning of which is obscure. The first paragraph on p. 58 is an example; the last sentence of the paragraph is so involved and ungrammatical that it fails to convey any meaning. On the next page, we are told that "death from sudden perforation (may) ensue with an entire absence during life of attractive pain." "Attractive" is surely a misprint—unless, of course, it is to be read in association with "during life." A few lines further up, "mitigates" is clearly a misprint for "militates."

We need not refer further to the last ninety pages of the book, which deal with the technique of abdominal surgery and the results of the author's abdominal operations. These matters are not germane to the subject of the work, and were introduced, unwisely we think, as an afterthought.

The Bacteriology of Peritonitis. By Leonard S. Dudgeon, M.R.C.P. (Lond.), and Percy W. G. Sargent, F.R.C.S. London: Archibald Constable & Co. Ltd.

This work, which formed the basis of the Erasmus Wilson Lectures of 1905, embodies the results of a systematic examination of the peritoneum in two hundred and seventy cases operated upon at St. Thomas's Hos-
pital, during a period of about sixteen months. The thorough way in which the investigation has been carried out renders the conclusions arrived at reliable scientifically, and valuable in their practical applications.

It is found that the first organism to make its appearance in the peritoneal cavity is the *Staphylococcus albus*, which was present in almost every variety of peritoneal lesion coming within the scope of the investigation. This organism, fortunately, is of very low virulence, and it appears to serve a protective function by determining the advent of phagocytes. Some interesting experiments are quoted to show that by the simultaneous inoculation of the *Staphylococcus albus* and the colon bacillus, little or no protective action is exerted, but that, if the staphylococcus is given a start of some hours, an artificial immunity is secured. The authors agree with those who hold that in the great majority of cases it is the colon bacillus which determines a fatal issue in cases of peritonitis, although when present the *Streptococcus pyogenes* is the most rapidly fatal organism.

In an interesting chapter on "Intra-peritoneal Haemorrhage," the results of an investigation of twenty cases are given, and considerable doubt is thrown upon the existence of a chemical form of peritonitis. In every case a white staphylococcus was obtained from the blood clot.

Considerations of space prevent us following the authors through their study of the bacteriology of the various clinical conditions associated with peritonitis, such as diseases of the female pelvic organs, intestinal obstruction, perforation of the hollow viscera, appendicitis, and so on. Suffice it to say that each chapter contains much valuable information, conveyed in a clear and convincing form, and that the investigations here detailed throw considerable light on many clinical points hitherto somewhat obscure.

Chapters xi., xii., and xiii. are devoted to a more minute study of the various organisms met with singly and in combination in different forms of peritonitis; and chapter xiv. deals with the rôle of the phagocytes in peritonitis, the conclusion arrived at being that not only is the small lymphocyte phagocytic, but that the coarsely granular eosinophile cell also possesses phagocytic properties of the very greatest importance in the early stages of peritoneal infection.

Suggestions for the treatment of acute peritonitis, so far as it is based on its bacteriology, are discussed in the concluding chapter. It is admitted that peritonitis of bacterial origin can subside without operative interference, but this fact in no way justifies delay in operating once the presence of peritonitis is diagnosed. In peritonitis of streptococcal origin, "the most thorough possible washing" of the peritoneal cavity is recommended. In *Bacillus coli* infections the authors believe it is impossible mechanically to cleanse the peritoneum, and that the attempt is attended with the risk of washing away the phagocytes in the exudate, and danger of spreading infection over unaffected regions.

In cases of mild infection, such as gastric perforations and intra-peritoneal haemorrhage, the washing should be thorough, with a view to removing the foreign material present. The writers are of those who deprecate the use of opium either before or after operation in cases of peritonitis.

We congratulate the authors on having accomplished a piece of
highly useful work, and in having succeeded in presenting it in such a readable and convincing manner.

_Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of Disease._ By Augustus Caillé, M.D. London: Sidney Appleton.

We have read this book, a bulky volume of some 850 pages, with much interest. As can be judged from the comprehensive title, the author has attempted to deal with the whole range of medical study. Such a task, comprising the entire fields of general medicine and surgery, gynaecology, and the special subjects, is nowadays beyond the powers of one man; and although Dr. Caillé has made a worthy effort, we fear that he has failed in his endeavour.

The essential object of the book is to be of use to the general practitioner and the senior student. "It should be the aim of every general practitioner to become a good all-round diagnostician, and if he fails in this, let him drift into a specialty." Other obiter dicta which catch the eye are: "The treating of symptoms is a delusion and a snare"; "Many death certificates have been written in diphtheria cases because the practitioner waited for a laboratory report before giving antitoxin."

The book is of unequal value. The practitioner and the student will find in it a great deal of useful and practical information, but it is loosely written in parts, and contains many statements which are of doubtful accuracy, and some which, in the present state of our knowledge, are utterly fallacious. The same applies to the illustrations; for although many are excellent, it is necessary in others to add a footnote to explain inaccuracies.

The student must be misled by the statement that the presence of blood in the urine gives "colour from carmine to jet-black, depending upon the amount and upon changes which it may have undergone." The yeast test for sugar as described in the text is valueless; and the author appears to confuse glucose and glycuronic acid. The stools of chorea are said to have a characteristic odour; but we take it that the "alcoholic" stools mentioned twice on page 27 are printer's errors for "acholic."

Quinine, we are told, is of use as an antipyretic only in malarial fever. In any other class of cases it is "useless and often dangerous"; but antipyrin, phenacetin, acetanilide, and like drugs are recommended. Hodgkin's disease "has those changes in the blood of the microcytic form of pernicious anaemia"; the description of leukaemia is meagre and faulty; and the examination error in blood counts in which "a drop" of the mixture is blown upon the counting chamber, without regard to the size of the "drop," may be left to the imagination. On page 45, in splenic anaemia "the leucocytes are reduced in number"; on page 381 "the leucytosis is marked."

We are glad to find Dr. Caillé condemn the indiscriminate use of peptonised milk in infant feeding, and we cordially indorse his statements on "teething" on pp. 124, 125. In this country thrush is not "frequently termed sprue"; and few physicians, or for that matter
few surgeons, would consider medicinal treatment of tuberculous peritonitis futile, and an early operation indicated in every case. Chorea is described as a "psychomotor neurosis of unknown origin," although in the next paragraph the author states that the most frequent and important variety may be looked upon as an infectious disease or intoxication by the products of pathogenic bacteria.

The section on the digestive system contains statements which—to put it mildly—are hardly in accord with the facts of modern physiology. Thus: "The final product of albumin in the gastro-enteric tract is peptone"; "Starchy food must be changed into absorbable sugar by means of dextrose, which is found in the saliva and pancreas"; in pancreatic secretion, "the nerve supply is probably through the pancreatic, but the mode of action is not definitely known." The specimen diet for chronic dyspepsia contains tea with breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On page 240 we find: "Hunger produces wakefulness. Take crackers, beer, milk, and toddy." In cirrhosis of the liver, "alcohol in moderation is not to be forbidden for those who are accustomed to it."

Such conditions as cysts, hydrocele, hydrosalpinx, hydronephrosis, and hydramnios are included in diseases of the circulatory system. Many causes are given of acute epiphysitis in infants and young children, but syphilis is not one of them.

We fear that, although Dr. Caille has spent much time and trouble on the book, it is not a work which will meet with general acceptance.

Criminal Responsibility. By Charles Mercier, M.B., F.R.C.P. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

Dr. Mercier, in a preface to this book, explains that the subject-matter has previously been fully dealt with by Sir FitzJames Stephen, "a professional lawyer who was in psychology an amateur," and claims his knowledge of psychology as his apology for attempting the task of revision. The point of interest in the book thus becomes the comparison of the findings of the lawyer with an amateur knowledge of psychology with those of a psychologist with an amateur knowledge of law.

The lawyer's opinions as to criminal responsibility of the insane may be summed up thus: A person afflicted with insanity is irresponsible if he does not know the nature and quality of the act, or has not the power of controlling his own conduct. The psychologist suggests that such guiding principles should be very materially altered. In the first place, he suggests that insanities should be divided into three classes—"ordinary" insanity, moral insanity, and moral imbecility; the first practically corresponding to the class of case dealt with by the lawyer, the latter two being additions. In the second place, the psychologist suggests that the conception of the influence of ordinary insanity on responsibility should be changed. The first suggestion, the division of insanities into three classes, is so hypothetical and argumentative, that the reader will naturally turn to the pages of the book to find if the author can advance facts to warrant the far-reaching change. If he does so he will be disappointed, for the author is apparently unable to
bring his views on the matter outside the region of pure theory and hypothesis. He fails to give good reason why the lawyer's views should be amended in that direction. The psychologist's other suggestions deal with cases of "ordinary insanity." They agree with the lawyer's in so far as want of knowledge of the nature and quality of the act frees the sufferer from responsibility, but disagree in at least three respects, the one being the addition of two provisos "that the knowledge includes knowledge and appreciation of the circumstances in which the act was done" and "that knowledge is a matter of degree," the second being an acknowledgment of partial responsibility of the insane, and the third the withdrawal of freedom from responsibility when the insanity is such as to prevent the sufferer from controlling his actions. It is as difficult to understand the meaning of the two provisos as it is to see under what circumstances they can be of any practical use; and, like the psychologist's classification of insanity quoted above, these provisos are based on unsubstantiated theory, and, like them, for practical purposes are objectionable and not desirable additions. The psychologist's views as to partial responsibility of the insane are contradictory. He upholds that theory, stating emphatically that the majority of insane persons are sane in a considerable proportion of their conduct, and responsible for what they do in that part of their conduct; but in his arguments he emphasises the impossibility of measuring the amount of the insanity by the extent of the symptoms. For instance, the psychologist states on page 189: "The facts that a man stammers, and that the pupils of his eyes are of different sizes, are in themselves no excuse for crime; but they may be symptoms of general paralysis of the insane, which is one of the most fatal forms of the disease. Why should not the existence of a delusion be as significant as the existence of a stammer?" When the author allows that a delusion is nothing more than an evidence of disease of the brain, and not a measure of it, it is difficult to understand on what principles he can use the nature of delusions, or the extent of delusions, as a measure of insane areas of conduct or of the amount of responsibility. The third difference, the omission of the acknowledgment of insane impulse as a ground of responsibility, to the medical reader is nothing short of surprising, for the merest tyro in mental diseases knows of the existence of a well-marked form of insanity, paranoia, in which the intellect is clear, but in which there exists delusions such as may, and can, dominate the sufferer's conduct. The lawyer made allowance for that condition, but the psychologist does not do so; the physician will adhere to the lawyer's views on this point rather than adopt those of the psychologist. In the book there are no good arguments warranting such a far-reaching and cruel conclusion as to hold an insane person responsible for what he does under the impulse of delusion.

Thus, after a scrutiny of the book, the reader will fail to find that the review of the lawyer's work by the psychologist has been of practical use in defining the line where the responsibility of the insane ends and where the irresponsibility of the insane commences, and will fail to find any clearer or more useful conclusions than were advanced by the lawyer. The book is one which may appeal to psychologists, but it is not one likely to be appreciated either by physicians or by lawyers.
REVIEWS.

Whatever the faults of the book are, Dr. Mercier is to be congratulated on its style. It is most readable and most interesting, and is written with a fluency that is not common in medical literature.

Pathology: General and Special. By R. T. Hewlett, M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill.

This book is an attempt to give in a brief space an account of the most important pathological processes, and to supply to the average student of medicine all the general and special pathology which he will require in his after career as a general medical practitioner. Such a book will be welcomed by a great number, not only of students, but also of qualified practitioners, and we congratulate Dr. Hewlett on his latest contribution to medical literature.

The book is very well written; it is very readable, and the general arrangement of the various subjects is, on the whole, quite satisfactory. Certain of the subjects, however, do not seem to us to have received sufficient attention. Inflammation and repair—that foundation on which so much special pathological anatomy is built—have, we think, been treated very imperfectly. Some of the most important processes are merely mentioned, while others of trivial importance are fully described. We do not consider it sufficient to speak of the emigration of "leucocytes" without any reference even to the nature of these migratory cells. Repair occupies about half a page, while almost as much space is devoted to the "plasma cell." In the chapter on diseases of the kidney we find hardly a reference to some of the most important and most frequently occurring pathological changes, e.g. the glomerular changes in the subacute forms of nephritis.

On pulmonary tuberculosis the writer is very brief, and we certainly do not agree that only in rare instances the infection seems to be propagated by the lymphatics.

The brevity in these and other subjects may be defended on the ground that the material had to be compressed within certain limits, but we think this might have been done with advantage by the omission of such physiological problems as fever, pyrexia, shock, and collapse.

Though we consider these defects serious in a book claiming so much as this one does, yet much of the material is so good and so well abreast of modern work, e.g. the chapters on progressive and retrogressive changes and on neoplasms, that we consider Dr. Hewlett's book a very valuable contribution, and it will be a very great help to students and teachers of pathology.