BOOK REVIEWS

HYPERTENSION AND HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE. By William Goldring and Herbert Chasis. The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1944. xv + 253 pp. $3.50.

This stimulating monograph represents another brilliant chapter in the slowly unfolding story of arterial hypertension and hypertensive disease. The authors bring together in their relatively small volume the observations, results, and conclusions of a decade and a half of co-ordinated clinical investigation carried on in the Department of Medicine and of Physiology of the New York University College of Medicine. New technics were developed, and are described, for the study of renal functional and hemodynamic phenomena in man, and the new light these unique approaches threw on some aspects of hypertensive disease affords stimulating and provocative reading.

Besides demonstrating again that hypertensive disease is a generalized vascular disorder rather than merely the expression of high blood pressure, Doctors Goldring and Chasis establish the major thesis that hypertensive disease in man is fundamentally different from and usually unrelated in genesis to the hypertension that results from experimentally induced renal ischemia in animals. The hope, raised by animal experimentation, that an effective therapeutic approach may be found in anti-pressor renal extracts or in surgical procedures aimed at correcting renal ischemia is, therefore, regarded as unpromising, and the authors present confirmation for their opinion in a critical review of the clinical experiences thus far reported along these lines.

Along with the specific treatment of investigational aspects with which the authors have been personally concerned, the book gives a good clinical delineation of hypertensive disease and all the current therapeutic efforts are discussed.

References to the literature of the subject are abundant and apparently well chosen. The few evenings required to read this small volume are certain to be profitably spent by any medical student, internist, urologist, or obstetrician.

ARTHUR J. GEIGER.

FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE. By Wallace Mason Yater. New (2nd, 1944) Edition. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York. 1286 pp. $10.

The chief objectives of the present revision have not departed from those of the first edition of 1938: to present the basic material of Internal Medicine simply and concisely, particularly so that the beginner may use the
volume to get his bearings and avoid "losing the forest for the trees." Doctor Yater and his thirteen associates have accomplished this task admirably, in spite of the clamor that any specialist might raise for a more thoroughgoing treatment of his particular pet subject. The judicious use of bold type, frequent tables, and an abundance of well-chosen illustrations are all helpful to the reader. The present edition has kept pace with new developments, and particularly, the possible needs of the Internists in the Armed Forces have not been neglected. The volume is unique among texts of Internal Medicine in the incorporation of such sections as are usually left to other volumes, though the student will welcome the able surveys of ophthalmology, dermatology, and otolaryngology that he will find. The final chapter, "The Physician Himself," is perhaps the most novel of all. It attempts to orient the recent graduate to his professional and non-professional environment and it deals with such diverse questions as medical ethics, problems of private practice, and graduate medical education. The interne may be intrigued by a section on what is expected of him, including such diplomatic admonition as invokes him to "show respect for all physicians, even though he secretly may not admire some of them, and even though, in his ignorance, he may think he knows more."

M. TAGER.

X-RAY EXAMINATION OF THE STOMACH. By Frederic E. Templeton. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1944. iv + 516 pp. $10.

This book is an excellent monograph on the newer technics of examination of the upper gastro-intestinal segments, including esophagus, stomach, and duodenum. Emphasis is placed on the importance of films to supplement fluoroscopic observations. The contributions on roentgen anatomy and physiology of the pharynx and esophagus are especially valuable.

There are clear, concise descriptions of organic lesions which are beautifully illustrated by reproductions of films made with the filming fluoroscope.

The text is handled in a scholarly and scientific manner with due regard for proper correlation of clinical and laboratory data in evaluating the roentgen findings.

The chapters dealing with the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the esophagus should stimulate a new interest in the roentgenology of this much-neglected segment of the alimentary tract.

The book fills an important gap in recent works on roentgenology of the gastro-intestinal tract. HUGH M. WILSON.