The student will find himself rather bewildered at times by the very completeness of the book which is the result of years of painstaking work. It is especially as a book of reference that it has its greatest value and it is amazing that the Germans should have led the world in the production of monumental treatises on tropical diseases when we consider how greatly their sphere of influence in the tropics has been contracted. As the author points out, malaria is no longer a tropical disease, it has spread with alarming rapidity in Asia and in other parts of the globe, and in light of the completeness of our knowledge of its prevention it is still the greatest of the world’s diseases. To review the book would necessitate a survey of the entire subject of malaria. There are some respects in which the book is not so helpful as in others; the dangers of intraocular injection are not sufficiently emphasized, denosensitization is not fully described, and too much space is occupied with the description of views and methods of minor importance. We must content ourselves with the statement that there is no aspect of the disease which is not dealt with in detail and that the book is indispensable to every specialist in malaria.

The only pity is that there is not an English translation of a work of such completeness and importance. Even for those who have no knowledge of German the excellent tables and illustrations in themselves make the book a valuable acquisition. It should certainly find a place in every large medical library in India.

MODERN METHODS OF TREATMENT.—By Logan G. Goodding, M.D. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1924. Pp. 692. Price $9.00.

The chief feature of this book is that it deals with all subjects in such a way as to make them exceedingly interesting. A general account of drugs is usually dry to a degree, but by confining his attention to the great drugs and by adopting the historical method of describing how they have come to occupy their present position the author has succeeded in making this section of the work very readable.

In the general account of the important drugs the author gives detailed instructions for their administration. Vaccines are dealt with in a very critical manner and only a few receive the hall mark of approval, these are the vaccines ordinarily used in the treatment of B. coli infections, acne, chronic bronchitis, cholera, typhus and certain forms of tuberculosis.

The vaccines which are so commonly used in the prevention and cure of common colds are denounced as being worthless. Dietetics, hydrotherapy, climate, heliotherapy, massage, radiotherapy and psychotherapy are clearly and fully dealt with.

Various miscellaneous procedures such as blood transfusion, lumbar puncture, artificial pneumothorax, etc., are described in detail, so that even the general practitioner who follows the directions intelligently ought to be able to carry them out. About one-third of the volume is given up to the description of the treatment of particular diseases. This section is simple, clear and precise, perhaps at times a trifle too dogmatic as for example in the section on pneumonia in which the only drug treatment specified is ten drops of tincture of digitalis every four hours.

The general practitioner will be disappointed in finding no prescriptions for chronic bronchitis, this is a condition in which the patient demands medicine and in which medicine is often of great service to him. Other items might be criticized, but taking it on the whole the book is one which we can heartily recommend to every practitioner: it will not take the place of such a book as Whitha’s “Dictionary of Treatment,” but it will form an excellent complementary volume.

FUNDAMENTALS OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.—By R. G. Pearce, B.A., M.D. and J. J. R. Macleod, M.B., F.R.S. 7th Edition. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1924. Pp. 349. Price $3.50.

This is an elementary text-book which gives a good general outline of the main principles of human physiology. It might be read with profit by students who are entering on the study of physiology, but it does not contain enough to satisfy the requirements of any of the university examinations in medicine. The accounts of vitamins and of the functions of the skin are insufficient even for a book of such small size, but on the whole the book can be heartily recommended to the student of elementary physiology.

A MANUAL OF DISEASES OF THE EYE.—By C. H. May, M.D. (New York), and C. Worth, F.R.C.S. (Eng.) Fifth Edition. London: Bailliere, Tindal & Cox, 1924. Pp. viii + 362. Plates 22, coloured. Price 15s. net. Figs. 337.

This excellent book, now in its fifth English and thirteenth American editions, maintains its position as the most popular student’s book on ophthalmology. It has been translated into Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, German, Japanese, etc.

Looking through it, the large number of good illustrations both coloured and otherwise, and the careful way in which it has been kept up to date, strike one at once. At the same time the book is not too long and cumbersome for the ordinary medical student or general practitioner.

REFRACTION OF THE EYE.—By E. Clarke, M.D. F.R.C.S. Fifth Edition. London: Bailliere, Tindal & Cox, 1924. Pp. iv + 251. Figs. 98. Price 8s. 6d. net.

This new edition of an excellent text-book has been rewritten and brought up to date, especially with a view to the requirements of candidates for the D.O.M.S. examination. As before the nature and results of the “eye strain” are given great prominence, and the illustrative cases at the end are of great value to all students of this subject. The changes are not very great, and the size of the book is not materially increased by them, but they are of a very useful and practical character, and the book continues to be the best English book on this subject.

A POCKET BOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.—By A. J. Ballantyne, M.D., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas.) Second Edition. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, 1924. Price 6s. net. Pp. 144.

This small book is intended for use by students attending lectures and clinical teaching in ophthalmology and is interleaved for note-taking with blank paper. In scope it covers in a brief way the whole subject, but the absence of any illustrations, and the extreme brevity of its pathology render it unsuitable for students, except in connection with a good course of lectures and clinical demonstrations, when it should be very useful.

Correspondence.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

To the Editor, The Indian Medical Gazette.

Sir,—With reference to the paragraphs on “Hygiene and Public Health” on pp. 17 and 18 of the supplement issued with the February number of the Indian Medical Gazette, entitled “The Indian Medical Year,” 1924, and particularly in connection with the statement that “Bengal has given the lead to other Provinces in the matter of utilising local self-governing bodies in the prevention of disease,” I should like to draw the attention of your readers to the fact that in Madras Presidency, as early as October, 1921, a similar scheme was issued regarding the formation of District Health Committees in each district (vide G. O. No. 1354-A. P. H., dated 19th October, 1921). A District Health Scheme, involving the appointment of a District Health Officer for each district, was introduced as an experimental measure in five districts in February 1922 (vide G. O. No. 165-P. H., dated 1st February, 1922), and a month or two later (vide G. O. No. 1096 L & M., dated 21st