REVIEWS.

NEW BOOKS.

The Heart: Old and New Views. By H. L. Flint, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1921. (15s. net.)

At a time when rapid advance is being made in the elucidation of many problems dealing with the circulation, it is wise to review the steps which have led to the present state of knowledge. In this book the author has collected the views held with regard to the heart from the earliest times, and has noted for us the names of those who have helped in the progress of this section of medical knowledge. The first and much smaller part deals with the periods from the time of Hippocrates to the discovery of the circulation by Harvey. In the second part, which carries the history to the present time, much attention is paid to the development of instrumental methods, and most space is devoted to descriptions of the venous pulse and electrocardiographic tracings. The preface is written by Clifford Allbutt. The book is well got up and is one which we can cordially recommend.

The Stomach and Abdomen from the Physician's Standpoint. By William Russell, M.D., LL.D. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1921. (15s.)

This book is the outcome of a wide clinical experience, and is from the pen of one whose teaching was much sought after in the Edinburgh medical school. The book is divided into seven sections, which deal in turn with the stomach, pylorus and duodenum, intestinal tract, oesophagus, liver, spleen, and kidney. These sections are largely illustrated by detailed accounts of carefully selected cases—99 in all—and these clinical pictures,
drawn by a master hand, form an important feature of the volume. The author lays great stress on an accurate clinical diagnosis by the physician, and to that end the employment of all available methods of examination, and he does well in these days to emphasise this need. Too often the diagnosis is made by the surgeon on the operating table. It is rather striking that, in dealing with gastric disorders, there is but little mention of the clinical methods of examination of gastric secretion now in common use as aids in differential diagnosis. One would have welcomed also the inclusion in such a book of nephritis in its various forms, but this is not considered, although calculus, displacements of the kidney, and other less important conditions medically are included. Similarly, colitis might well have found a place in its appropriate section. The volume is illustrated by a number of carefully drawn diagrams, and contains some excellent x-ray photographs.

Medical Conduct and Practice: A Guide to the Ethics of Medicine. By W. G. Aitchison Robertson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: A. & C. Black, Limited. 1921. (6s. net.)

The author in this little volume embodies and amplifies much that he is in the habit of teaching to his students of forensic medicine. Instruction in medical ethics is not, so far, part of the medical curriculum, and books on the subject are few. The young graduate is therefore launched on the uncharted ocean of medical life without warning as to the difficulties and dangers which may arise, often acquiring such knowledge by bitter experience. This book must be welcomed as an endeavour to help the newly qualified to meet such difficulties, and to furnish them with a few guiding lights. The lofty ideals of the medical profession are kept well in view, but there is also a useful admixture of practical and more worldly advice. The difficulties of starting practice in these days when medical work is so largely dominated by the National Insurance Act are clearly stated. Due emphasis is laid on the need for a more complete examination of the patient. This plea is more
necessary now than ever before. Sound advice is given as to the "taking on of new patients." The author's remarks on "leisure time" will not meet with general approval, as he considers that most doctors enjoy in their work a fair amount of outdoor exercise, and thus open-air pastimes are unnecessary. The etiquette of the "consultation" and of "fees" is very fully dealt with, both from the practitioner's and consultant's point of view, though the detailed instruction to the latter as to those with whom he should shake hands might reasonably have been omitted. The latter part of the book suffers, on the other hand, from condensation, and that, too, on matters where sound and clear advice is very necessary, as on medical evidence, laws of registration, certification and lunacy, medical secrecy, and, what is so very essential, methods of book-keeping. The volume provides within small compass much useful information, it is very readable, and can be recommended to every young graduate starting out on medical practice.

The Care of Eye Cases. By Robert Henry Elliot, M.D., B.S.Lond., Sc.D.Edin., F.R.C.S.Eng. Oxford Medical Publications. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. (12s. 6d. net.)

Lieut.-Colonel Elliot's writings are well known to all interested in ophthalmology. This book gives in a clear and easily understood manner all the small details with which anyone in charge of eye cases should be familiar. It is well illustrated and has been written for nurses, practitioners, and students. We can recommend it to them.

The Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Session 1919-1920. Vol. XL. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1920.

Like other societies, the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society suspended its meetings during the war, and this is, therefore, the first volume that has appeared since the session 1913-1914.
The Society is to be congratulated on having such a number of interesting obstetric subjects discussed at its meetings. The volume maintains the high standard of the Edinburgh school of obstetrics, while the printing is all that could be desired.

**The Clinical Examination of Diseases of the Lungs.** By E. M. Brockbank, M.D.Vict., F.R.C.P., and Albert Ramsbottom, M.D.Vict., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1921. (4s. 6d. net.)

This is a small book, but it should be useful in helping the students to understand the various physical signs of pulmonary disease. This is its avowed object, and it has apparently been produced at the request of the students in Manchester. The explanations given of the different signs are, for the most part, in accordance with usual teaching. We think that the last chapter on "Physical signs of common pulmonary diseases" should either have been extended or omitted. The brief descriptions are apt to be misleading, and do not give the student a true picture of the different stages which may be met with. Apart from this criticism, we think the book will be welcomed by those for whom it was specially written.

**The Clinical Examination of the Nervous System.** By G. H. Monrad-Krohn, M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. With a Foreword by T. Grainger Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1921. (6s. net.)

In this book the author describes a routine method of examination of the nervous system which he has adopted in his own clinic. The more useful clinical tests are described in detail. In addition, there is a short chapter on simulation, the electrical examination is explained, while the appendix contains a brief account of the Binet-Simon tests for determining the degree of intellectual development in children. The necessity for the routine examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid is emphasised. The book is
clearly printed and illustrated with diagrams, and is eminently readable. It forms an excellent introduction to the clinical examination of the nervous system, and as such we have no hesitation in recommending it to medical students and practitioners.

The Principles of Preventive Medicine. By R. Tanner Hewlett, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., and A. T. Nankivell, M.D., D.P.H. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1921. (21s. net.)

This book impresses at first by its piquant note, but one speedily loses interest in it as a scientific work. The hygiene part of the book is mainly discussions of pros and cons without any proper instructional basis. Such a treatment of the subject may be proper when addressed to medical officers of health and others of that genre, but not in a book professed to be for students and general practitioners of medicine. The later chapters are written in more measured language, and the subjects are more fully and well presented. Altogether the book is a disappointing one, and would have been much improved by a vigorous sub-editing of its earlier chapters.

NEW EDITIONS.

A Guide to Diseases of the Nose and Throat and their Treatment. By Charles A. Parker, F.R.C.S.Edin., and Lionel Colledge, M.B., F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: Edward Arnold. 1921. (25s. net.)

A good book and one to be commended to the practitioner and student for study and reference, and especially to those—and they are a large and increasing number—who are interested in throat and nose work. Like many other publications, the issue of this edition had to be held up during the period of the war. It has not, however, suffered from this delay, as it has allowed time for opinion to become settled on certain debatable points. It is thoroughly up to date, new matter has been added, and
portions re-written. The drafting under separate chapters has been well done. The clinical features of the various diseases and their differential diagnosis are fully and accurately described, while particular attention has been devoted to their treatment, which is based on the authors' work and experience. It is well written, the style is easy and convincing, is well printed and illustrated.

What to do in Cases of Poisoning. By William Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Twelfth Edition, revised by P. Hamill, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Limited. 1921. (4s. 6d. net.)

The first edition of this compact little book appeared in 1881, and since then it has been regularly revised. That it has now reached its twelfth edition is abundant evidence of the demand for a reliable book of reference on poisons. Though it deals with a wide range of poisons, there is no mention of carbon bisulphide. Poisoning from this cause is uncommon, but such a case came under the writer's notice recently. This addition would be useful in a new issue. The book is what it claims to be, a handy source of information on the treatment to be adopted in poisoning cases.

The Course of Operative Surgery. By Professor Dr. Victor Schmieden and Arthur Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B. Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1920. 25s. net.

So many text-books of operative surgery exist which contain obsolete matter—the so-called classical operations forming, in the words of the literary hack, "good padding material"—that it is a relief to come upon a book modernised and so carefully pruned of the unfruitful branches of our art as this volume of Schmieden's. It is very well illustrated, and written in clear, unadorned style. The book is originally intended apparently for the operative surgery classroom, so the translator has added notes to bring it more into line with works suitable for hospital work. There are one or two points to which we would call
attention. In describing the methods of controlling haemorrhage in disarticulation of the hip, both Esmarch's and Momburg's are mentioned, but the technique of the latter is not detailed. Some surgeons have found Momburg's method extremely useful, and regard it, indeed, as superior to the others. Then mention of Makka's clamps for controlling haemorrhage from the scalp in trephining operations is omitted. And again, in catheterisation or passing of bougies, preliminary cleansing of the anterior urethra is not spoken of at all. There are several blunders in the text—p. 29, "finger" should read "digit;" p. 26, "Fig. 24b" should read "Fig. 25b;" p. 115, "Fig. 123" is a mistake for "Fig. 132;" and on p. 130 should not "temporo-sphenoidal joint" be "temporo-mandibular joint?" On the whole, the book is a commendable one.

A Manual of Surgical Anatomy. By CHARLES R. WHITTAKER, F.R.C.S.Ed. Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1921.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1910, the second in 1914, and was reprinted in 1919. The appearance of the present edition after so short an interval speaks well for the demand for this work. This edition is slightly enlarged and many new illustrations have been added. The text is clearly printed and readable though concise; and the illustrations, of which there are 90, are good and to the point, the skiagrams being unusually distinct. The volume, dealing as it does with a subject of lasting and widespread interest, will doubtless have a large circulation.

Surgical Pathology and Morbid Anatomy. By Sir ANTHONY A. BOWLBY, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., and Sir FREDERICK W. ANDREWS, M.D., F.R.S. Seventh Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1920. (30s. net.)

The interval between the first and the present, which is the seventh, edition of this book is the substantial period of thirty-three years. The authors cannot therefore be accused of undue
frequency of publication. Changes in that time are inevitable, and the war is accountable for some of them, notably fresh sections on gas gangrene, shock, and tetanus. But the whole aspect of the book is changed—in fact, it is practically a new one; the page and type are bigger, the illustrations are larger, clearer, and show much better on the smooth paper—in a word, it is a handsome volume, pleasant to read. The subject-matter is well arranged so as to carry the student (for whom it is specially designed) interestedly onwards from the comprehension of the elementary matters of hypertrophy, atrophy, degeneration, organisms, inflammation, to the general diseases, and so to consideration of the diseases of regions and organs. The teaching is that of the "English school," and its source is St. Bartholomew's Hospital; it may, on the whole, be regarded as sound. We take exception, however, to the statement on page 541, that "in five to ten per cent of all cases of unhealed ulcer, either of stomach or duodenum, cancer ultimately supervenes." It is recognised that cancer does not supervene in duodenal ulcer. In discussing embolism there is no mention of infarction by name. On page 271 this confusing phrase occurs—"Even if not primarily tuberculous, if the patient be strumous tubercle may develop." We are surprised to read that the term "surgical kidney" seems to "indicate that the infection arises from surgical interference;" in Scotland the term never meant anything but a kidney amenable to surgical treatment. On page 413, in the description of a picture of the complete urinary apparatus, the word "right" refers to the reader's right, and not to the right kidney and ureter. One wonders if a book like this, excellent though it be, has a real place in these days. In 1887, when the first edition was published, it undoubtedly had, but to-day every good text-book on surgery contains as much surgical pathology and as good and as many pictures as this volume. However, great names and the great school to which they belong will readily find for it a wide clientèle.