NEW BOOKS.

The Elements of Medical Treatment. By Robert Hutchison, M.D., F.R.C.P. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Limited. 1926. (7s. 6d. net.)

This book is an amplification of a course of lectures on elementary therapeutics which the author used to give annually at the London Hospital. It is intended primarily for the use of students preparing for examinations, and its straightforward statement of the broad principles of treatment, and their application to the more common types of disease met with in practice, renders it very useful. Its usefulness is enhanced by the fact that special attention has been given to the prescription of drugs, reasons being offered in each case for the various combinations prescribed. In too many quarters nowadays this side of clinical teaching is sadly lacking. A number of the earlier chapters deal with the treatment of main symptoms, such as fever, pain, insomnia, constipation, diarrhoea, and cardiac failure. The author recognises the rather prevailing tendency to abuse symptomatic treatment, but also the fact that in many cases this is the only available line of action. Instructive, though brief, chapters on the use of insulin in diabetes, endocrine treatment, vaccine therapy, and psychotherapy, have been included, and are dealt with in an eminently fair and well-balanced manner, due weight being given to those of proved therapeutic value. The book is written in a simple and readable style, and its matter has been chosen by a master hand.

Malaria in India. By Major-General Sir Patrick Hehir, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., I.M.S.Retd. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (£2 2s. net.)

The first part of this handsome volume is devoted to the epidemiology, endemiology, and etiology of malaria in India, and from it one obtains a good idea of the enormous ravages of the disease in that country. The geographical distribution of malaria in India is well shown in a map specially prepared for the book by Lt.-Col. S. R. Christophers. The rôle of man in the distribution of the infection, and the importance of the human
malaria carrier, form subjects of much interest. Indian anophelini are described with much detail, and the coloured plates which illustrate this section are admirable. A most useful chapter is that on malarial parasites. It contains much valuable detail as to their investigation and methods of staining, and is well illustrated. Leishman's stain is preferred, and the thick blood film is not much favoured by the author. The second part deals with the clinical and pathological effects of malaria. The disease with its complications and sequelæ is fully described, and due consideration is given to the clinical and chemical pathology, and pathological anatomy. Sound advice is given on the intravenous use of quinine. The third part is concerned with the methods of prevention of malaria in India. Methods of protection against mosquitoes, the destruction of larvae, and other anti-mosquito measures are described with a wealth of detail. Much space is devoted to the various methods of employing quinine and their value. The author is a believer in the prophylactic use of quinine, when it is efficiently carried out. The appendices contain, besides statistics, &c., some important items added to the knowledge of malaria while the book was passing through the press. This is a book of great interest and value. It forms a very comprehensive treatise on malaria, and can be strongly recommended to those engaged in malarial work, not only in India, but in any country.

The Infancy of Medicine: An Inquiry into the Influence of Folk-lore upon the Evolution of Scientific Medicine. By Dan McKenzie, M.D.Glasg., F.R.C.S.E., F.S.A. London: MacMillan & Co., Limited. 1927. (15s. net.)

Under the above title, Dr. Dan McKenzie, the well-known London laryngologist, has published an extraordinarily interesting book, which he has dedicated "to the honour and glory of my Alma Mater, the University of Glasgow." It is, indeed, refreshing to find a busy specialist making time or finding opportunity to dig so deeply and so well into the great mine of the medical lore of the ages and of so many races, and to bring forth from it so much treasure as this book contains. While making no claim to be a History of Medicine—in the sense that the works of Garrison, Baas, Singer, and others are histories—this book contains a wonderful amount of most interesting, and withal entertaining, information on the medical knowledge and customs of primitive races in their relation to the evolution of modern scientific medicine. Chapter headings such as "The evolution of the medical man," "Primitive treatment," "The evolution of animal remedies," "Astrology
in medicine," "Rocks, stones, and lithotriptics," "The evil eye," "The fasting spittle, etc.," "Healing wells and waters," give some idea of the wide range of subjects with which this fascinating volume deals in an erudite, but yet most readable, manner. An unusually full bibliography, running to 25 pages, shows that the author has studied his subjects at first hand, and to good purpose. The book was awarded the History of Medicine Prize at the University of Glasgow, in 1925. We can most heartily commend this book either to the reader who takes medical history seriously and desires authoritative information on the interesting by-paths with which Dr. McKenzie deals, or to the casual reader who finds delight in studying the quaint medical customs and rites of primitive peoples and in contrasting them with the state of medical knowledge of the present time. Dr. McKenzie is to be most warmly congratulated on producing a book which should make a wide appeal, not only to members of his own profession, but to the reading public in general, and which is a credit alike to the author and to his University.

Recent Advances in Anatomy. By H. Woollard, M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1927. (12s. 6d. net.)

All interested in anatomy and physiology will welcome this critical survey. In selecting his matter the author has restricted himself to those researches which depended on the methods of studying living material. Many aspects of anatomy have been left untouched, such as racial and constitutional anatomy, anthropology, &c., which, interesting and important as they are, could not be brought within the scope of a book of moderate dimensions. The work done in the almost virgin field of microdissection is reviewed, and brief comment made on the present stage of our knowledge of those newer elements found in cytoplasm, the mitochondria and the Golgi apparatus, which have given rise to so much investigation and discussion. A chapter is devoted to the method of investigation known as tissue culture. Recent researches, from the morphological aspect, on the problems of oestrus, ovulation and menstruation, are summarised, and the youngest human ovum—the Miller ovum—is described. Experimental embryology is one of the most recent methods of investigating the morphology and behaviour of structures in the living state, and some of the problems to which it has been applied are illustrated. Many morphological problems have been attacked by the method of vital staining, and the author reviews recent studies by this method on some of the cell problems in inflammation, the elements composing the reticulo-endothelial
or macrophage system, the origin of the cells of the blood, &c. A large part of the book is taken up with recent investigations on the cerebro-spinal fluid and central nervous system, and concludes with a chapter on x-ray anatomy. Those who wish to dip deeper into these problems will find a list of the relative literature appended to each chapter.

NEW EDITIONS.

An X-Ray Atlas of the Normal and Abnormal Structures of the Body. By Archibald McKendrick, F.R.C.S.Ed., D.P.H., F.R.S.E., and Charles Whittaker, F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.S.E. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1927. (30s. net.)

We have nothing but praise for this most beautiful production. The reproductions are universally excellent. That it has proved a great success is shown by the fact that two editions have appeared in two years.

The Pneumothorax and Surgical Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By Clive Riviere, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: Humphrey Milford (Oxford University Press). 1927. (10s. 6d. net.)

Since the publication of the first edition of this book ten years ago, the pneumothorax treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis has made considerable advances, and now occupies a very definite place in the treatment of this disease. In the present edition the whole subject has been expanded and brought up to date. New chapters have been added on the reduction of adherent pleura, pleural contraction and its effects, and the duration of the treatment and its termination. The second part of the book, which deals with the surgical treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, is entirely new. In this the reader will find details of the various operations, and the indications for or against them. The choice of an anaesthetic is considered, and detailed instructions are given both for the preparation of the patient for operation and for his after-care. The value of this section is enhanced by the fact that it is written largely from the physician's standpoint. The author considers that the results so far obtained are very encouraging. Well written and thoroughly practical, this book will be useful to all practitioners, especially to those engaged in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.