included so that the midwife may find her studies made easier and more interesting when she has been taught principles of science.

In the section on eclampsia a dogmatic statement is made that the disease usually develops in women who eat excessively of meat. This statement, however, cannot be acquitted of error when it is a well-known fact that eclampsia is very common in India and China where the women are, for the most part, entirely non-meat eaters. There are many diagrams in the book which, although of a simple nature, are well drawn and illustrate with clarity the conditions described.

An admirable book is the verdict on this volume.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL GENETICS.—By J. A. Fraser Roberts, M.A., M.B., D.Sc., F.R.S.E. 1940. Oxford University Press, London, Humphrey Milford. Pp. xxiii plus 266. Illustrated. Price, 15s. Obtainable from Oxford University Press, Bombay and Calcutta

This excellent book is a happy departure. Genetic inheritance is explained directly by showing the movements of the genes. The traditional cryptic symbolism has been kept out nearly throughout. It appears in an insignificant rôle towards the end where *short* is represented by *tl, ss* would have been better. The over-worked American fruit-fly and erudite formulæ have also been kept out. Yet medical men interested in genetics have been presented with all they need.

The price perhaps could be lower. The granulated cloth of the binding to which insects are very partial is a disadvantage in the tropics.

S. D. S. G.

AIDS TO PSYCHOLOGY.—By John H. Ewen, M.R.C.P. (Edin.), D.P.M. Second Edition. 1940. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. vii plus 176. Price, 3s. 6d.

AIDS TO PSYCHIATRY.—By W. S. Dawson, M.A., M.D. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.A.C.P., D.P.M. Fourth Edition. 1940. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. vii plus 320. Price, 4s. 6d.

BOTH these little books are written by doctors for medical students—undergraduate or post-graduate. That medical training has reached a point whereat psychology is admitted to the rank of a 'subject', shows that the teaching of psychopathology and psychiatry is becoming a serious affair. Without undue optimism one is at liberty therefore to presume that in a generation or two the famous dictum of Trousseau, 'there are no diseases but only diseased persons', has a hope of attaining recognition. In the list of works to which the author of *Aids to Psychology* states in his preface he is under an obligation, it is remarkable to observe that he makes no mention of the work of Professor C. Spearman. 'Psychology down the Ages', a book which is certainly the most eminent textbook of psychology in English and possibly in any other language. Dr. Ewen is evidently a loyal disciple of the late Professor McDougall with the result his psychology is all-too-human. On page 55 we are told that one of the difference between Natural Man (whatever the term 'natural' may connote) and other Mammals is that man has 'foresight of the future in accordance with the past'. The present situation in Europe would hardly support this statement. To the researches of animal psychology no reference is made. 'Gestalt' psychology is considered and dismissed in two paragraphs on the last page in the book, but in such a fashion as to leave the reader with a vague notion that 'there is something in it'. In case Dr. Ewen has overlooked Professor McDougall's opinion on Gestalt psychology, it is as follows:—'I would submit that no one of the principles of Gestalt psychology is new, except one (isomorphism), which is, I think, demonstrably false'. In other words, the medical student who reads this book is not getting a fair deal. Of course, it is possibly beyond human achievement to give any one a fair deal in psychology in what is no more than a cram-book. This remark applies more or less to the book of Dr. Dawson which in spite of the

fact it is in its fourth edition, is lamentably behind the times. It is even more of a cram-book than the book of Dr. Ewen, and as such its sale should be prodigious. That the book is particularly devised to help students to pass the examination for the Diploma of Psychological Medicine and is now in its fourth edition, seems rather to reflect on the scope of the D.P.M. Dr. Dawson appears to regard Kraepelin's work on dementia præcox to be still of practical value, although Kraepelin's original conception is now held to be more or less bankrupt. Dr. Dawson makes no mention of 'psychobiology' nor of the concept of the somatopsychoses. In the matter of therapy, occupational therapy is hardly touched on while in regard to mental hygiene the name of Clifford W. Beers is not even mentioned. If Dr. Dawson is representative of psychiatry in Australia, Australian psychiatry has a good deal of lee-way to make up.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE: A UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TEXT IN APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY.—By Charles Herbert Best, M.A., M.D., D.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.S., F.R.C.P. (Canada), and N. B. Taylor, M.D., F.R.S. (Canada), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Canada), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1939. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. xvi plus 1872. Illustrated. Price, 55s.

THE fact that this book, which was first published in 1937, was reprinted four times is in itself a sufficient proof of its popularity and utility. The second edition appeared in September 1939 and has been thoroughly revised and enlarged. A new section has been added on the physiology of the special senses and the whole of the subject matter has been brought up to date. This is a most excellent book which puts in very simple and easily comprehensible language the applicability of modern concepts of physiology in the treatment of disease. We strongly recommend it both to students and practitioners in this country as a perusal of it will enable them to understand the physiological basis of scientific medical practice which is the only way they can equip themselves for successful careers.

R. N. C.

AIDS TO MATERIA MEDICA.—By G. H. Newns, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1939. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. vii plus 171. Price, 3s. 6d.

THE students aid series is designed with the object of assisting medical students reading for examinations. The second edition of *Aids to Materia Medica* has been thoroughly revised and includes the new drugs contained in the British Pharmacopœia Addendum 1936. The preparations of the drugs are clearly given and their pharmacological actions are concisely stated. The book is reasonably priced and will be useful to Indian students.

R. N. C.

AIDS TO PRACTICAL NURSING.—By M. Houghton, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1940. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. xii plus 308, with 36 figures. Price, 3s. 6d.

THIS book is essentially practical and is of everyday use to nurses in training. If the other parts of this 'Aids' series is of equally high standard, I shall have no hesitation in recommending my pupils to collect this inexpensive series for their progressive studies.

R. C.

A POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY.—Compiled by Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N. (Lond. and Leeds). Assisted by Thos. B. Davie, B.A., M.D. (Liverpool), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Fourth Edition. 1940. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. xx plus 409. Illustrated. Price, 3s. 6d. Postage, 2d.

THIS dictionary should be in the possession of every training and post-graduate nurse. Its definitions are simple and comprehensive, and the book is completely up to date with the revised medical terminology.

R. C.