On p. 56 butyric, caproic, caprylic and capric acids are stated to be "volatile and soluble." This statement is open to objection, in fact is probably not true. The Polenske process is not mentioned. As we have stated, the book is a useful bench companion but is hardly complete enough and has a few mis-statements.

A HANDBOOK OF MIDWIFERY FOR MIDWIVES, MATERNITY NURSES AND OBSTETRIC DRESSERS, 6th Edition.—By Comyns Berkeley, M.A., M.C., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.). Cassell & Co., Ltd.: London, 1924. Pp. 578. Price 8s. net. Illustrated.

THE sixth edition of "A Handbook of Midwifery for Midwives, Maternity Nurses and Obstetric Nurses" by Dr. Comyns Berkeley is well up to the standard of its predecessors. It is extremely difficult to arrange a book of this nature so that the readers for whom it is meant do not have to wade through a maze of unnecessary material, and at the same time to present them with the essentials. This work appears to us to strike the happy medium. The paragraphs explaining what the doctor will do when the case goes beyond the ordinary powers of the midwife are particularly useful in this country, where the nurse may be many hours' journey away from the nearest doctor and where she may be called on to deal single handed with obstetrical emergencies.

The chapter on ante-natal work is excellent, as is also that on the care of infants. If we have any criticism to offer it would be that the table showing the height of the uterus at various periods of pregnancy is likely to give a wrong impression. We have never found the fundus uteri two inches above the symphysis at 4 weeks: and also the method of determining whether the arms are extended or not in a breech presentation—i.e., by estimating the distance of the angle of the scapula from the middle line—seems to us to be well calculated to lead to errors in diagnosis. However, those are small points.

The script is excellent and the illustrations well carried out. The fact that since the fifth edition appeared in 1920 there have been three reprints and a sixth edition recently testifies to the great practical value and popularity of the work.

DYSPEPSIA: ITS VARIETIES AND TREATMENT.—By W. Soltan Fenwick, M.D., B.S. (Lond.). 2nd Edition. London and Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., Ltd., 1924. Pp. 515. Price 24s. net.

THE original plan of this book was formed thirty years ago, but the present volume is far different from the one originally contemplated by the author.

There is no branch of medicine which is more difficult than dyspepsia, and it is likely that most practitioners will welcome the help which Dr. Fenwick offers to them in this volume. The author has had a vast experience in dealing with dyspepsia, and his methods of treatment have the great merits of success and popularity.

Dyspepsia in India is even more difficult than dyspepsia in European countries and up till now no serious attempt has been made to write a connected account of the subject. Dr. Soltan Fenwick has written three other books on diseases of the stomach, it is perhaps a pity that he did not attempt to combine all his work on gastric disorders in a single volume.

The advanced practitioner and the teacher of medicine will certainly find help and inspiration from this book.

ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES ON DIGESTIVE AND NERVOUS DISEASES AND ON ADDISON'S ANÆMIA AND ASTHMA.—By Arthur F. Hurst, M.A., M.D. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. London: William Heinemann (Medical Books), Ltd., 1924. Demy 8vo., pp. vii plus 306, 15 plates, 50 figures. Price 21s. net.

THIS is a fine collection of essays and addresses by Dr. A. F. Hurst; the contents have in many instances been published in various British journals. It will be very useful to students and practitioners, not only

because it brings together the subjects in an orderly whole, but also because the articles have been revised and expanded by the author in the light of recent researches. The titles and presentations of the subjects are novel, the chapters on "sins and sorrows of the colon," ulcerative colitis, the nervous disorders of the stomach and intestines, appendicular dyspepsia, gall-bladder diseases, hysterical elements in organic diseases and asthma cover a wide field, and are written in a clear and illuminating style. In Addison's anæmia the author found achylia gastrica a constant factor and the cause is believed to be due to infection by *Streptococcus longus* from the mouth, which becomes pathogenic because of the absence of normal antiseptic gastric juice. The severity of the anæmia and the nervous symptoms are held to depend on the relative production of hæmolytic and neurotoxic bodies. Team work in the diagnosis of all the diseases dealt with is absolutely essential and the author strives to impress this truth in every chapter. There is no physician or surgeon who will not read this volume with profit and interest.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—By William Boxwell, M.D. (Dub.), F.R.C.P.S., and F. C. Purser, M.D. (Dub.), F.R.C.P.I. Dublin, Talbot Press, Ltd., 1924. Pp. xv and 905. Price 30s. net.

At last someone has had the courage to publish a text-book of medicine which is really suitable for the average medical student. This excellent little book by Dr. Boxwell and Dr. Purser of Dublin contains about 900 pages, printed in a good sized type with liberal margins for the student's own notes. The substance of the book is by no means condensed and an attempt has been made to eliminate everything that is not of first class importance to the student. A book on these lines if specially written for Indian students would be of the greatest value.

Even as it stands Boxwell and Purser's book, if used in conjunction with a small manual of the special diseases of India, would fill the bill much better than any of the more elaborate text-books.

The intention of the authors is to give in a brief but explicit manner an account of what every young doctor must know about medical diseases. The book is far from being a complete account of medical diseases. It is still farther from being a book of reference, but it is just because it makes no pretence at being either of these things that it is so valuable. A specially useful feature of the volume is that it is written from the standpoint of the practitioner who has not the resources of special laboratories at his disposal, the tests and methods of examination which are described can be carried out by any doctor with a properly equipped consulting room.

The book is the product of men of mature and sound judgment who are capable of expressing themselves in an attractive and striking manner.

We shall be much interested to see whether the book is a success; from what has been said it is clear that it ought to be successful, but that is quite a different matter.

HANDBUCH DER TROPENKRANKHEITEN.—Prof Carl Mense. Vol. III. Third Edition, 1924. Malaria and Blackwater Fever, by Prof. Dr. Hans Ziemann. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius. Pp. 592, 152 illustrations and 7 coloured plates. Price 40 gold marks.

THIS very important volume is the most complete work in existence on malaria. It contains a complete summary of existing knowledge on malaria. The greater part of the book consists of a statement of the important facts in connection with malaria; the views of the numerous workers are stated in clear terms and a very voluminous list of the articles on each branch of the subject is given. The book is a veritable encyclopædia of malaria, but at the same time the author gives a critical summary in which his own views are stated.