metabolism of lactic acid, the source of energy production during contraction, the part played by phosphates and the mechanism of carbohydrate breakdown, the production of adenylic acid, pyrophosphoric acid and phosphagen, as precursors of ammonia, have also undergone considerable modifications. The physiology of muscular exercise and the fuel supply to the muscle have now, in the light of the investigations carried on, been more clearly explained. The monograph of Dr. Needham has presented all the different phases of development of the subject in a condensed form. The subject is complicated and the crystallization of the matter to suit the size of the monograph series has made the book a little difficult for the ordinary readers. The advanced research workers on the subject will, however, have the whole development of the subject very handy for quick survey and ready reference.

R. N. C.

PHANTASTICA-NARCOTIC AND STIMULATING DRUGS: THEIR USE AND ABUSE.—By L. Lewin. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd., 1931. Pp. xi plus 335. Price, 15s.

THE history of drug addiction is as old as human civilization. From the earliest times man, all the world over, has been in search of substances that allay fatigue produced by overwork, relieve pain and produce sleep when there is insomnia. Such drugs inspire with hope the mentally tortured, supply new vitality and vigour to the afflicted, and produce pleasurable sensations and euphoric effects. The effects produced by these drugs, in the beginning at any rate, are so attractive that their use is frequently repeated giving rise to habit formation. There are plenty of drugs of vegetable origin, as well as synthetic chemicals, belonging to this category, which are being used in one country or another both for honest purposes or with dishonest intention. New drugs are also being produced. The literature, however, on the subject of drug addiction is scanty and scattered, and reliable information about various drugs of addiction is very difficult to obtain.

Phantastica is the first book of its kind, which deals with almost all important drugs of addiction throughout the world, and being written by an experienced pharmacologist, it supplies a long-felt need. The drugs are classified and dealt with under five groups according to their action on the human body. After giving a short description of the general pharmacological action of drugs the author gives a detailed account of the history, extent of addiction, mode of consumption of each, as well as the toxic effects produced on the human body. The whole subject is treated in a very comprehensive and lucid manner, and will be of great help to those interested in drug addiction problems. The opinions expressed in the book are all the result of the author's practical experience and laboratory experiments over an extended period, and will serve as a safe guide. The first edition of the book in German was widely read and appreciated. The second edition contains more material and the excellent English translation by P. H. A. Wirth, P.H.C.B.Sc. (Munich), will be greatly appreciated by English-speaking people.

R. N. C.

VEGETABLE MATERIA MEDICA OF INDIA AND CEYLON.—By E. Roberts, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.). Colombo: Plate Limited, 1931. Pp. iii plus 437.

Vegetable Materia Medica by Dr. E. Roberts presents in a brief space the properties and uses of a number of vegetable drugs found in India and Ceylon. Though it is largely a compilation from some of the well-known treatises on Indian indigenous drugs published during the latter part of the last century, original observations from the personal experiences of the author have also been freely incorporated. Many useful formulæ and recipes are given which are likely to be of very great help to the physicians. Of late years a great deal of interest has been taken in the study of the indigenous drugs and it is being increasingly felt by a

section of the profession that enquiry and research into the vast domain of the *materia medica* of India and Ceylon is likely to bring to the medical profession more useful remedies to combat disease. The information regarding many drugs is not easily available as most of the literature on the subject is out of print and not available to the ordinary medical reader. A book of this kind will, therefore, interest the profession in this country.

R. N. C.

SANITARY LAW—IN QUESTION AND ANSWER.—By C. Porter, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. (Edin.), and J. Fenton, M.D., D.P.H. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1932. Pp. xvi plus 220. Price, 7s. 6d.

SANITARY LAW, in other words, the reflection and attitude of public opinion towards health matters in the laws of the state, has undergone many changes within the last ten or fifteen years. Sanitary administration and local self-government in England have been very definitely changed by the Local Self-Government Act of 1929. Tuberculosis, venereal disease, food, housing, maternity and child welfare work, mental deficiency and nursing have all received very special attention. There has therefore been a tendency for sanitary law to become diffuse and scattered in many acts. This is a sign of progress, but leads ultimately to some confusion and difficulty in administration of the law. At intervals it becomes necessary to collect and consolidate scattered acts into a uniform and comprehensive whole. English sanitary law needs such treatment now, and if it were done would be a great benefit to all concerned, particularly to the student preparing for his diploma in public health. At present however public health law is a difficult subject. Its treatment in such a book as the one under consideration makes it considerably easier, however. The question-and-answer style helps precision and memorization; the questions are sensible and searching, and the answers clear and unequivocal. The chapters are logically arranged; environmental law takes up a large portion; we would have preferred to see the Local Government Act of 1929 dealt with right at the beginning instead of at the end of the book. There are some omissions which we think important. Post-vaccinal encephalitis is not mentioned in the index or in the text, though it is the subject of an important vaccination order; carriers too are not dealt with in the index or in the text, and here again there is at least a regulation dealing with their detection and treatment. 'Standard Milk' is not defined in the Condensed Milk Regulations, though it is the pivot of the regulations; under the Alkali Acts it would have been as well to give the standards of effluent gases. The book is readable and should prove of distinct assistance to students reading for their diploma of public health.

A. D. S.

A GUIDE TO ANATOMY.—By E. D. Ewart. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1932. Pp. xii plus 338, with 98 illustrations. Price, 12s. 6d.

THE publication of the third edition of this book is very welcome. The subject-matter has been dealt with in five sections, *viz.* osteology, the trunk, the head and neck, the upper limb and the lower limb. In dealing with the muscles the author has gone into details, so far as the important muscles are concerned, avoiding unnecessary details for the less important ones. The muscles concerned in the various movements of the joints have been nicely tabulated. The cutaneous distribution of the nerves has been well illustrated. There are 98 illustrations, of which four are coloured. Though most of the illustrations are uncoloured they are very attractive and useful. The surface marking of the important structures has been appropriately incorporated. The old nomenclature has been retained throughout. The book is strongly recommended for the students preparing for the examination of the