HISTOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY.—By Jose F. Nonidez, Sc.D. 1941. Oxford University Press, London. Pp. ix plus 199. Price, 10s. 6d. Obtainable from Oxford University Press, Bombay and Calcutta

The outline is not intended as a laboratory guide but merely as a supplement to a textbook. This extract from the preface states fairly the nature of the book. A histology book without an illustration is no source of knowledge, but the average student may find it helpful in pre-examination revision. Perhaps brief comments on the relation between function and histological appearance might have been added without unduly increasing the size of the outlines.

The industrious student who will use the space provided for his own illustrations and additional notes, will find the histology section good. The embryology has suffered from excessive compression, so that in the absence of diagrams it can be understood only by the advanced student to whom the omission of many details will be irritating.

J. A. R.

SURGERY OF HEAD AND NECK.—By Arthur S. McQuillan, A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S. 1941. Oxford University Press, London. Pp. vi plus 138. Price, 10s. 6d. Obtainable from Oxford University Press, Bombay and Calcutta

IN 129 pages, the author has attempted an outline of surgery of head and neck which 'is meant to be an outline of general surgery'. This claim appears to rest solely on the inclusion of diseases such as rabies, glanders, and gas gangrene (but not tetanus). In the space available, he has been able to give little more than a catalogue of diseases and salient points rather disorderly in places and showing lack of balance, e.g. one-quarter of the book is devoted to the thyroid, and more space is allotted to malignant tumours of the thyroid than to head injuries.

This book might assist an unfortunate student faced with an examiner who demands a rapid numerical but superficial list of signs, complications, etc.

J. A. R.

AIDS TO OSTEOLOGY.—By Nils L. Eckhoff, M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. 1942. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. vii plus 260 with 42 figures in the text. Price, 6s.

This little book, of pocket size, follows the orthodox treatment of its subject-matter. There is no undue compression; the whole is reliable and readable; and the information appears adequate for the ordinary student. Diagrams are introduced in this edition, and, while adequate for explanation, should not tempt the student from his real teacher—the bones. This can be recommended confidently to any student who is dismayed by the size of the ordinary textbook of anatomy.

J. A. R.

FIRST AID IN EMERGENCIES.—By Eldridge L. Eliason, A.B., M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.S. Eleventh Edition. 1941. (With a Supplement on Civilian Defence and Poison Gases.) J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. xii plus 260 plus 16, with 126 illustrations. Price, 9s.

This book, first published in 1915, has now reached its eleventh edition. It is interesting to compare this American book with similar British publications, which tend to present their matter in a stereotyped manner often with the unnecessary use of medical and surgical terms or of special first-aid terms, and to devote too much space to unnecessary detail and to procedures which are of doubtful utility.

Why in first aid must we always call bleeding 'haemorrhage', breathing 'respiration', a bruise 'contusion', the blood cells 'corpuscles'? Why cannot we call a fracture a break, and even the abdomen the belly? Why should we need use such terms as

'supine position', 'digital pressure', 'thermal disinfection', 'compound' and 'comminuted' fracture (surely 'open break' and 'smashed' or 'splintered break' are better terms), and 'upper' and 'lower extremities' (why not arm and leg)? Many persons taking first-aid training have never heard these terms and the whole subject tends to become unreal. Are these and other common faults avoided in American books on first aid? It appears that in this American publication to some extent they are, but not by any means entirely.

This book has a wider scope than most British publications and in many respects comes half way between the ordinary first-aid manual and the 'Home Doctor'. Because of the great distances in America, and the fact that medical aid to travellers, hunters, etc., may be delayed for days or weeks, the book describes some procedures usually left entirely to doctors.

The material and the presentation in the body of the book are good and the illustrations are numerous and excellent, but the unnecessary use of technical terms is not entirely avoided, and some of the bandaging and strapping procedures described and illustrated are perhaps unnecessarily complicated. It is, however, good to see a book on first aid in which general principles are usually stressed more than complicated detail. For example, in the treatment of 'fractured thigh (femur)' the principles are outlined and the need for traction is emphasized but there is not the usual detailed account of the precise number of bandages to be used and the site and the order of their application.

In addition to dealing with injuries, etc., the book has chapters on plant poisons (26 pages with many illustrations), medicines, emergencies, infectious and transmissible diseases, and abdominal pain.

The American background of the book is interestingly shown here and there. There is a note under gun-shot wounds which states that 'in civil life the bullet is usually soft lead'; there is a reference to tularæmia (which is wrongly stated to be 'a highly fatal condition') and also a mention of the 'kissing-bug'.

The Civilian Defence Supplement is far less satisfactory. It consists of sixteen pages, three and half of which are devoted to general behaviour in an air raid, one to bombs, particularly incendiary, and the remaining eleven and half pages to poison gases. There is no discussion whatever of the types of injuries commonly encountered in air raids and of their first-aid management and treatment. This supplement was obviously added hurriedly. It is of very little use to the first-aid worker.

The price of the book is rather high for a popular first-aid manual.

J. L.

THE ADOLESCENT CRIMINAL—A MEDICO-SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF 4,000 MALE ADOLESCENTS.—By W. Norwood East, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). 1942. Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. xi plus 327, with 112 tables. Price, 45s.

The author is a well-known authority on the psychology of crime, so that this book adds more lustre to his reputation. In this country where little, if any, attention is paid to the psychological aspects of crime and the mental make-up of offenders against the law, a book of this sort should not only be very welcome, but set an example to Indian psychiatrists to make a report along more or less the same lines as regards crime and criminals in India. The author states that the objects of his enquiry were four: Three were immediate in purpose: it was desired, first, to obtain the fullest information which would enable ample consideration to be given to each case before recommending the lad to the Court of Trial as a suitable subject, on general grounds, for detention in a Borstal institution; second, to ascertain the presence of any mental defectiveness or other mental abnormality which should be reported to the court; third, to utilize the medical data and other factors in the life