Wassermann work that the author has sought to discover and eliminate the various sources of error. In Part III the author gives detailed descriptions of his own techniques in the hope that other workers may follow them *exactly*. There has undoubtedly been too great a tendency to modify complement fixation techniques before the possibilities of the technique itself have been fully explored. Part IV is devoted to practical applications of the complement fixation method in the serum diagnosis of syphilis, tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, glanders, typhoid fever and many other diseases. While much more than a laboratory manual, the work will, on account of its highly technical nature, appeal mainly to serologists, the more so as the many most valuable practical hints are in our view its strongest part.

Dr. Kolmer writes with authority on complement fixation and his book is a valuable addition to the literature of the subject. We unhesitatingly recommend it to laboratory workers and to those clinicians, both in the field of human and veterinary medicine, who desire to familiarise themselves with the fundamental principles on which these tests are based and their clinical meaning under various sets of circumstances. The book is well got up, printed in clear type on good paper, and there are numerous clear illustrations, more particularly of methods of bleeding and of special apparatus.

R. B. L.

HUMAN HELMINTHOLOGY.—By E. C. Faust, Ph.D. London: Henry Kimpton. Pp. XXII plus 616. Illustrated with 297 engravings. Price, 36s. net.

THIS is by far the most comprehensive publication on helminthology as it effects the human host that has ever been produced, and it brings the existing knowledge of the subject right up to date.

The book deals with all phases of the subject, the description of a worm and its life history being followed by paragraphs on pathology, clinical symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis. The purely zoological portion of the book appeals to the reviewer as the best, the pathology and treatment being not so fully dealt with in many cases.

Although a very useful book of reference for the medical practitioner it is, on the whole, more a book for the zoologist, and the introduction of numerous new superfamily and family names with their definitions will be of little interest or value to the clinician, and will serve rather to confuse the mind of one not a specialist in zoology. It is doubtful whether the formation of higher groups is a sound proceeding in a book that deals with a very limited number of species in a given group, for it has always seemed to the reviewer that the more limited the number of species being dealt with in a classification, the more imperfect is such a classification when applied to the Class as a whole.

Three and a half pages are devoted to a list of parasites from human hosts, each name being followed by "The pathological designation for infection with the parasite." This appears rather unnecessary especially when it leads to such a condition as infection with *Braunia jassysensis*, and which has only been recorded once, being designated "brauniasis jassysensis." It is doubtful if this nomenclature will be followed to any extent by the medical profession, for it will possibly lead to some of the confusion that exists in zoological nomenclature being transferred to medical science. One case at least of this already exists where filariasis is now designated wuchereriiasis by some modern writers. This alteration in a well established name seems unnecessary, as although the generic name of the causative organism has been changed the worm is still a filaria in the broad sense, and it seems more reasonable to confine the pathological name of infection with this worm to the family or superfamily root followed by the specific name (e.g., filariasis due to *Wuchereria bancrofti*), which will be much more comprehensible to a medical man who is not a zoologist as well.

A few rather terrifying and difficult phrases to understand occur in the book such as, "Piscivorous amniotes serve as the definitive hosts" in referring to Opisthorchis, and it is rather unnecessary, as the next sentence says, "Some members of the superfamily live in mammals, others in birds....."

There is a useful list of references at the end of each chapter indexed under the names of the parasites to which they refer; although closer to the subject matter of the book wherein they are quoted they are not so rapidly accessible as in the usual place, at the end of a book, for one has often to turn over numerous pages to find the end of a chapter.

Section 4 deals with the laboratory side of the subject in a general way and it gives a useful outline of the approved methods of examining and preserving helminths and their eggs. The final chapter of this section is devoted to brief descriptions of the important intermediate hosts of worms. As the author says, this is only a bare outline, and that is all that can be given in a book of this size, but it should prove useful in enabling one who is not a zoologist in placing any given host in a family or even in a genus; the specific determination will always have to be left to the specialist.

On the whole the illustrations are well chosen, and there are many diagrams of life histories which give the salient points at a glance, and which will be of great assistance to beginners.

The book is well printed and the number of errors in type setting are remarkably few.

It is considered that it is a valuable publication to anyone dealing with purely human helminthiasis, and the only real criticism is that the considerable space devoted to pure zoology has made the book rather expensive for a practitioner who only occasionally has to deal with helminth infections, and who is only interested in the clinical and therapeutic side of the subject.

P. A. M.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—By M. A. Kamath, M.B. & C.M. With the assistance of V. Vishwanathan, L.M.P. Third Edition (revised and enlarged). Calcutta: Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd. 1929. Pp. IX plus 197. Price, Rs. 4.

THIS is a valuable epitome of the main facts of medical jurisprudence. The authors have revised and enlarged the present edition and a useful chapter dealing with the unconscious patient has been added.

Attention has been rightly drawn to the fact that available statistics regarding ossification refer to Western countries and it is reasonable to infer that epiphyses unite much earlier in India.

The appendices are of much help to the general practitioner as they deal with the method of holding post-mortem examinations, the issue of wound, lunacy, post-mortem and physical fitness certificates, and the method of sending viscera to the Chemical Examiner.

The presentation of facts is concise and clear but uncritical. The book remains as before a useful pocket textbook to help students through their examinations.

B. G. M.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS IN THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF DISEASE.—By Percy Hall, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Fourth Edition. London: Messrs. William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1929. Pp. XVIII plus 248 with 57 illustrations. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

It is only two years since the last edition was published. Since then the science of actino-therapy has advanced steadily, and as the author suggests, perhaps the most encouraging sign of the times is the realization that ultra-violet radiation should be administered only by the qualified and experienced.

This latest edition contains two new chapters. One on the vexed question of lamps for home use. Here it is pointed out that many of the lamps designed for the purpose are therapeutically inactive. Minute and regularly repeated doses are beneficial in the dull winter