MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE. A National Problem. By A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, B.A., M.D., Assistant Superintendent, Government Maternity Hospital, Madras. With a foreword by Major A. J. H. Russell, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., I.M.S., Director of Public Health, Madras. Madras: Everyman's Publishers, Ltd., 1922. Pp. 149. Price Re. 1-8. Obtainable from Everyman's Press, 1, McLean Street, George Town, Madras.

THE problem of the high infantile mortality in India is admittedly urgent; the appalling waste of human life that goes on in India cannot be right; the cold logic of the economist may state that a high infantile mortality is a necessary consequence of inflexible economic laws working on the human masses whose surplus vital energy produces but cannot maintain its numerous progeny. This may be so and it goes to the root of the problem; it is the economic conditions, the outlook and aspirations of the people that need looking to. It is one comfort to the practical sanitarian that his efforts against one particular disease are not limited but produce far-reaching results in other directions. Measures for the reduction of cholera lead to the reduction of other water-borne diseases, to habits of cleanliness and—what is most valuable—to a sense of civic responsibility both individual and collective, factors that go largely to the making of national character. Efforts to reduce the high infantile mortality in India hope not merely to preserve infant life, but to educate the masses in the eradication of dirty habits, in a cleaner mode of living, in parental responsibility, and to assist in that physical, moral and social uplift which is the line ordained by Nature for man's evolution.

Dr. Mudaliar in this book states the case for action clearly, vigorously and eloquently. It is specially intended for municipal bodies, which Dr. Mudaliar considers are the units most suited for starting work.

The layman on reading this book will not fail to be impressed by the descriptions of the conditions under which the average Indian mother, even in well-to-do families, undergoes her labour; he will find a clear account of what has been done in other countries, what is being done and what remains to be done in India; he will realise his own and his community's duties. Dr. Mudaliar's statements and arguments are intended for the lay public and therefore we would not too closely criticise some of his positive assertions. Australia requires population increase and grants £5 to every mother who gives birth to a child; but other countries are not in similar need. Not every one again views the low birth rate of France as a grave menace.

There are a few rather serious misprints; a typist from his political subconsciousness has advised "ante-national care," and lovers of Dickens will be slightly shocked by the appearance of "Sarah Cramps."

For its purpose we thoroughly recommend the book.

NORMAL BONES AND JOINTS ROENTGENOLOGICALLY CONSIDERED. By Isidore Cohn, M.D., F.A.C.S. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1924. Price \$10.00. Pp. 218.

THIS book, the fourth volume of the Annals of Roentgenology, edited by Dr. James T. Case, is in reality an atlas of the bones and joints at different ages. The general scheme of composition is to begin with a review of the literature connected with the development and radiographic appearances of normal and injured joints, pointing out the fallacies which may arise from lack of knowledge of the normal appearances of the joints at different ages.

The type is large and clear, the reproduction of skiagrams leaves nothing to be desired. The omission of the Spanish and French translations provided in former editions is an advantage. Indeed the publishers are to be congratulated on having produced a book of unusual interest to the profession at large and a work of real utility to the roentgenologist and surgeon.

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF THE ELECTROCARDIOGRAM. By H. E. B. Pardee, M.D. With 56 illustrations. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1924. Price \$4.00 net. Pp. 222.

IN this volume the author has collected all the facts and current knowledge of the electrocardiogram which are of clinical importance. Experimental and theoretical considerations are included when necessary to the elucidation of the subject in hand, and are given in as simple a form as possible.

The earlier chapters deal with the normal electrocardiogram and the physiology of the origin of the electrical waves. Alterations due to various abnormal conditions are then discussed. After this the author deals with the various disturbances in rate and rhythm of the heart and the concomitant variations in the electrocardiogram. A whole chapter is devoted to the clinical application of the facts deduced from this method of examination. In the final chapters the theory of the electrocardiogram and the mode of installation and use of the apparatus is described and discussed.

This book should prove of immense value to the practising physician, who has no time to acquire an expert knowledge of this subject, and who has occasionally to deal with heart cases where this method of investigation is essential to the correct appreciation of the condition of the heart muscle and its prognostic significance.

DIATHERMY AND ITS APPLICATION TO PNEUMONIA. By H. E. Stewart, M.D. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1923. Price \$3.00 net. Pp. 210.

THIS little book deals with the medical and surgical aspects of diathermy, with special reference to the treatment of pneumonia. The early chapters are devoted to general technique and a description of the various types of apparatus employed. The later chapters deal with actual cases and the results and effects of treatment.

The literary style is clear and easy, the illustrations profuse and well executed.

The author has made out a good case for the further trial of this form of treatment in pneumonia, and it is to be hoped that others will give it a trial in this disease, which is rightly described as one of the greatest scourges of the human race.

A TEXT-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY FOR NURSES. By Fredus N. Peters, A.M., Ph.D. Second Edition. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1923. Price \$2.50. Pp. 302.

THIS little book does not pretend to be a complete exposition of the science of chemistry. It is written in simple language and the author, while being scientific and truthful, has aimed at avoiding the technical, so that the matter may be understood by all for whom it is meant.

The text is profusely illustrated. Other features are the introduction of questions on the subject matter at the end of each chapter, and a number of interesting tables at the end of the book.

We can only say that it is a volume well worth the careful perusal of the nursing sisterhood interested in chemistry.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE FIFTH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE FAR EASTERN ASSOCIATION OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, SINGAPORE, 1923. Edited by the Hon'ble Dr. A. L. Hoops and Dr. J. W. Scharff. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1924. Pp. 974, 86 plates (2 coloured), and numerous charts in the text. Price 40s. net.

THIS excellently edited and printed volume constitutes a complete record of the Far Eastern Medical Congress held in Singapore in the autumn of 1923, which was attended by nearly a hundred delegates and representatives from all parts of the Far East. At the beginning of the volume there is a brief statement of the objects of the Association, followed by a list of delegates and representatives to the Congress, and members of the

Association. This is followed by the text of the address of welcome given by Sir Lawrence Guillemard, and the presidential address on "The Prevention of Disease in the Tropics" by Dr. A. L. Hoops. At the back of the book is a record of Council and business meetings, scientific meetings and social events, and excursions made by delegates to points of medical interest in the Federated Malay States. The remaining 900 pages contain the full text of 72 papers delivered at the Congress by men of renown from all parts of the Far East, with the discussions which followed them. The papers are grouped as follows: malaria 14, beriberi 7, ankylostomiasis 6, plague 4, leprosy 6, and miscellaneous, including one or more papers on nearly all the diseases of importance in the tropics, as well as some general papers, 35. It is impossible here to review, or even to name, the many valuable papers contained in the volume. Suffice it to say that many of them are of extraordinary interest, and constitute very important additions to our knowledge of the diseases which scourge the tropics. The editors are to be highly congratulated on the careful arrangement and attractive appearance of the book.

IMPERIAL SOCIAL HYGIENE CONGRESS. British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. May 12th to 16th, 1924. Organised by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. 102, Dean Street, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Pp. 286.

THE British Empire Exhibition, organised primarily to demonstrate the manufactures, products and resources of the Empire, brought together in England representatives from all parts of the British colonies and dependencies and gave an opportunity for the discussion of many subjects not necessarily considered in the exhibition. One such subject was what has been here called "social hygiene," otherwise known as the "social evil, the white slave traffic"; in plain language the moral and physical evils resulting from promiscuous sexual intercourse, the problems of venereal disease and prostitution. One may or may not approve of the publicity given to these subjects in medical, lay and what may be called the "Sunday" papers, but it is impossible to deny the benefit which has accrued to suffering humanity and to an innocent posterity from the dissemination of public knowledge of venereal diseases, their nature, dangers, and their cure.

Venereal disease has never been and indeed is now seldom correctly diagnosed and treated efficiently in its early stages by the general practitioner, and it is right that, in a matter so important to the public health, the State should make efficient diagnosis and treatment available for all. It is a notable fact that in England venereal disease stands conspicuous in being the one disease which an unqualified practitioner may not legally treat.

At the Conference, which lasted for five days, the subject appears to have been considered from every point of view. The present position in England is ably set out by Sir George Newman. The discovery of the causal organism of syphilis and later of a cure, and the development of the Wassermann reaction made it possible for diagnosis and treatment to be organised on lines which previously had been impossible. Public opinion became insistent that official measures should be taken, and in 1913 a Royal Commission was appointed and issued a report in 1916. Its recommendations form the basis of the present English organisation. Public Health Regulations made under the 1875 Public Health Act now give local authorities power to prepare schemes for the treatment of venereal disease and the Venereal Diseases' Act of 1917 provided for the suppression of quack advertisement and unqualified treatment. The schemes at present in force provide for (1) facilities for free laboratory diagnosis; (2) organisation of free treatment; and (3) public and professional education.

A full course of instruction is incumbent in every medical curriculum.

Compulsory notification and compulsory treatment are still subjects of discussion, while prophylaxis and methods of prevention by self-disinfection, being still subjects of controversy, have not been taken up by Government.

Dame Rachel Crowdy discusses the question of the international position with regard to prostitution and the suppression of the traffic in women and children. It is practically universally agreed that licensed houses should be forbidden; the inmates are practically slaves, all are sooner or later infected and as a result of the higher degree of promiscuity in licensed houses the danger of venereal contagion is greatly increased. The League of Nations is entrusted "with the general supervision and the execution of the agreements with regard to traffic in women and children." Prostitution as a domestic problem is therefore outside its sphere.

Sir Arthur Newsholme writes on "Some Aspects of Social Hygiene." He points out "the fundamental importance and sacredness of the family; that the guardianship of the germ plasm of the future, the passing on untainted of the inherent qualities of the family group is an essential duty of family life; that promiscuity, even in the absence of venereal disease, is the great enemy of family life."

Venereal disease is only a symptom of the trouble, which is deeper, more complex and difficult to understand and treat. We have not yet got behind Nature's purpose, if there is one. Multiply, multiply, she urges, with apparently no thought or provision for the consequences. To man alone has been given the gift of intelligence that he may try to understand the primal and ultimate intentions of Nature (should indeed these be). In a scholarly article Professor Mott writes on the "Psychology of Adolescence." The impelling influences developing in the young adolescent should on the one hand be kept from driving him into an abandonment to passion, and on the other from morbid introspection and wavering indecision. The normal adolescent may sow wild oats but will keep hold of the realities of life and remain a man of action. The first two types are exemplified in the impetuous Romeo and the melancholic Hamlet, while Henry V illustrates the third type. The adolescent female is absent from Shakespeare and is difficult of portrayal; the continental realists like Guy de Maupassant have successfully depicted her.

Other aspects of "social hygiene," e.g., "the general practitioner and the treatment of venereal disease," and "how to secure the maximum efficiency of a venereal disease clinic" are discussed fully, and a section is devoted to the consideration and description of the problem as it exists in various parts of the world under conditions naturally very varied. Representatives from India were insistent on the need for better education of the medical practitioner in India, and of the widespread incidence of venereal disease. Post-graduate education especially would seem to be necessary.

The book is issued by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases; and perhaps will be sent on application to those interested, as no price is given.

CORRIGENDUM.

IN our issue for last October, in the review of Dr. Wanseys Bayly's book "Venereal Disease, Its Prevention, Symptoms and Treatment," second edition, on page 523; for "Messrs. William Heinemann," please read "Messrs. J. & A. Churchill," who are the publishers. The information that the book is obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth & Co., Calcutta, is correct.