error: The Rh negative percentage applies to the European stock only, not to the whole world.

The paper, printing and binding are excellent, and the price is reasonable.

S. D. K. G.

TEXTBOOK OF BIOCHEMISTRY.—By Benjamin Harrow, Ph.D. Fourth Edition. 1946. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. xiii plus 592. Illustrated. Price, 22s.

The fourth edition of Prof. Benjamin Harrow's book perhaps gives more than is really needed by a medical student but is welcome. Chapters on vitamins, immunochemistry, chemotherapy, inorganic metabolism and hormones are particularly arresting.

The paper, printing and binding are very good and the price is not excessive.

Teachers and laboratory workers must have a copy.

S. D. S. G.

VITAMINS IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.—By J. R. Goyal, M.B., B.S. 1947. Published by Dr. J. R. Goyal, Burn Bastion Road, Delhi. Pp. 166. Price, Rs. 5. (Obtainable from the Medical Review of Reviews, Post Box No. 160, Delhi)

This small book contains a concise account of vitamins and their uses including lists of articles of diet with their vitamin content especially intended for those practitioners who have no access to the literature. We may offer one comment. Although absence of thiamin deficiency in individuals with very poor intake is attributed to bio-synthesis in the large intestine as observed by Najjar and Holt, it is stated elsewhere that human body is unable to manufacture vitamins except certain amount of vitamin D.

R. N. C.

MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES.—By Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N., and Arnold Bennett, M.P.S. Second Edition. 1947. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. viii plus 354. Price, 7s. 6d.; postage, 6d. (Home)

This textbook on Materia Medica should prove most useful to all student nurses preparing for the State examinations as it is written in such an interesting and concise manner. In the second edition new chapters have been added dealing with sulphonamides and penicillin which greatly increase the value of the book. A nurse who knows something about drugs and their uses and effects finds her work much more interesting and is bound to prove a better and more useful nurse to her patients and the doctors. The editors have tried to meet the needs of nurses and have not made the book too difficult. It is strongly recommended for the use of sister tutors, trained nurses and student nurses.

W. J. M.

IMPROVISED EQUIPMENT IN THE HOME CARE OF THE SICK.—By Lyla M. Olson, R.N. Fourth Edition. 1947. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. 265. Illustrated. Price, 7s. 6d.

This book with its great number of illustrations is certainly unique and should find a place in every home and in every District Nurses' and Midwives' Library. The many up-to-date ideas on improvising articles to use for the comfort of the sick either in the home or in the hospital when the real article required is not available, are practicable and easy and should help to stimulate ideas of further ingenuity of all who use this book. The chapter on First Aid should be of interest to all nurses and mothers and those in charge of children among whom accidents so easily occur. The present book being the fourth edition proves that it has been very popular and useful.

W. J. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED

1. Nutrition. Bulletin No. 30. June 1947. Published by the Department of Food, Government of India, New Delhi. Pp. 32. Illustrated.

2. Food and Nutrition. Exhibition Number 1. Bulletin No. 31. July 1947. Published by the Department of Food, Government of India, New Delhi. Pp. 32. Illustrated.

3. Chronicle of the World Health Organization. Volume 1, No. 1-2. 1947. Development and Constitution of the W.H.O. United Nations' World Health Organization, Interim Commission, 350, Fifth Avenue, New York.

Abstracts from Reports

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR 1945

FROM the year 1941 onwards, it became necessary to suspend publication of the full annual report of the Public Health Commissioner for various reasons, chief amongst them being the acute shortage of paper and printing facilities, diversion of some of the civilian staff to war work, recall to military duty of officers in civilian departments both from the Centre and the Provinces, difficulty in obtaining in time full reports of the provincial health activities, and lastly for reasons of security. Since the termination of the war last year, these difficulties are being gradually overcome. Brief reports for the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 have already been published. A preliminary note on the health conditions in British India during 1945 was published earlier this year as a new departure to provide a brief and early review.

Through the helpful co-operation of the Directors of Public Health of the Provinces it has been possible to obtain fuller reports of the work done during 1945. This report for 1945 is modelled more or less on the lines of the reports of the immediate pre-war years. It has not been possible, however, to publish it within six months of the end of the year to which it relates, which has been our objective in the past.

The year under review saw the termination of the global war first in the European and then in the Pacific Theatre. It left the world with widely devastated areas crying for rehabilitation, and a shortage of food and fuel supplies combined with difficulties of transport and communication. Under such circumstances the return to peace-time conditions could not be but slow. Malnutrition of populations on a scale not previously encountered could be expected. The threat of widespread world epidemics was apprehended. The pandemic of influenza in 1918-19 after World War I came readily to mind. In the United Kingdom the dreaded influenza did cause some alarm during the winter of 1945 but fortunately the worst fears did not materialize. In India, special watch was maintained at ports to check immediately any importation of influenza into the country. Spotting stations were organized in the provinces and a production of influenza virus vaccine was started on a preliminary scale at the King Institute, Madras.

In India, epidemics of cholera, smallpox and plague raged in a severer form than had been seen for many years past. Lack of sufficient medical personnel with the civil administration of the provinces and in some instances difficulties of supply of drugs and disinfectants hampered quicker control. In Bengal, some military medical units and personnel loaned from the army continued to render invaluable help to the civilian health authorities.

The control of epidemic diseases at fairs and large religious gatherings has improved by the insistence of some provincial authorities on pilgrims being previously