the results of dissections on 158 animals ranging from amphibia to man, has been carried out in the intervals of a busy professional life as a physician.

It is a valuable study in comparative anatomy showing as it does the variation in the nerve roots which supply trunks to the brachial plexus, and that this is very largely dependent on other anatomical differences such as the different number of cervical vertebrae in different types of animal, and as such it is a distinct contribution to anatomical knowledge.

The illustrations are numerous, clear and well produced and the book is printed on heavy art paper, which is not a disadvantage in a comparatively small book, as the weight is not inconvenient.

It should prove of value to all professional anatomists.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE.—By Various Authors. Edited by J. J. Conybeare, M.C., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. 1939. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. xx plus 1112. Illustrated. Obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth and Company (India), Limited, Calcutta. Price, Rs. 14

DR. CONYBEARE'S book does not need any introduction to the medical profession. It is one of the books which has given innumerable medical students of the last ten years their basic knowledge of medicine.

In this edition, a number of valuable additions have been made. The chief of these is a section on psychological medicine including the psychoses and the psycho-neuroses. This has led to the addition of about a hundred pages to the book. Several chapters have been rewritten in the light of recent advances, and several chapters on recently recognized clinical entities have been added. These improvements have further enhanced the value of an already excellent book.

The reviewer has but a few criticisms to make. As this book is read by medical students and practitioners in the tropics, it is desirable that the section dealing with the tropical diseases should be more comprehensive. Thirty-four pages allotted to this subject is too meagre, and this has led to inadequate description of important tropical diseases.

Certain recent advances in therapeutics have not been mentioned, e.g., M. & B. 693 in pneumonia, nicotinic acid or vitamin-B concentrates in pellagra, trichlorethylene in trigeminal neuralgia, ergotamine tartrate in migraine. It is nowadays not correct to say that 'ultimate outlook is poor' in the case of pellagra. Early and moderately advanced cases respond rapidly to specific treatment and relapse can be prevented by adding vitamin-B concentrates to the diet.

The get-up, printing and illustrations are excellent and reflect credit on the publishers.

The book will be found extremely valuable by medical students and general practitioners.

P. C. S. G.

AIDS TO FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY.—By W. G. Aitchison Robertson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.E. Eleventh Edition. Edited by J. H. Ryffel, B.Ch., B.Sc. 1939. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. x plus 170

THAT it takes a great man to write a small book on a big subject could not be better exemplified than by this little book. Generations of medical students are indebted to two great men who gave them the distilled essence of forensic medicine in ten editions and thus created in them the confidence necessary for embarking on a study which can be and is vast indeed. The present writer also has done his best in the eleventh edition.

Opinion in a nut-shell is given on many topics, for example:—(i) if a child dies immediately after birth it is almost impossible to prove that it was born alive; (ii) it is not flattering to one's vanity to overlook a case of malingering, but should this occur little harm is done; and (iii) there is no practical advantage [for forensic purposes] in attempting to classify the different forms of insanity.

Treatment of toxicology is as complete as that of forensic medicine and includes the latest information on the poison rules. Essential information is available on poisonous fungi, which is often lacking in much bigger books, and on slimming drugs. The use of types M & N in blood groups, in determining illegitimacy, is indicated.

The reviewer offers a few suggestions for the revision of the text in the next edition. M & N are 'types' not 'groups', and the animal used in preparing the anti-fluid for determining them is 'immunized' not 'activated'. Typhoid, para-typhoid and dysentery organisms may occur in food as a source of infection but they are not responsible for food poisoning. On page 77, para 1, line 5, 'associated' should be 'associate'; para 2, line 5, 'and vice versa' is obviously not required.

The paper, the size, the printing and the binding are good. The price, if it is the same as that of the tenth edition, namely 3s. 6d., is very reasonable. The book should be read by all interested in forensic medicine.

S. D. S. G.

SELECTED PICTURES OF EXTRA-OCULAR AFFECTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE GOVERNMENT OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MADRAS, WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR STUDENTS AND POST-GRADUATES.—By Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Wright, C.I.E., M.D., D.P.H., I.M.S. 1938. Government Press, Madras. Pp. 41 plus 48. Illustrated. Price, Rs. 2

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WRIGHT and Dr. Koman Nayar have published in ingenious form a collection of stereoscopic pictures of extra-ocular affections, rendering generally accessible the best of the photographs which are to be seen in the stereoscope in the Elliot School of Ophthalmology in Madras.

While on a recent visit to Madras, the reviewer noticed how this valuable collection was deteriorating from the effects of the climate, and it is pleasant to know that by the publication of this folio a permanent record has now been made.

The pictures are rendered stereoscopic by looking at them through a pair of +6D spheres adjusted in a trial frame. The folio is so arranged as to permit simultaneous access to the notes which describe each picture.

This book should have a special appeal to post-graduate students in ophthalmology, and should find a place in the library of every medical school.

W. McN. N.

CLASSIC DESCRIPTIONS OF DISEASE WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE AUTHORS.—By Ralph H. Major, M.D. Second Edition. 1939. Published by Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. Pp. xxx plus 727. Illustrated. Price, 27s. Obtainable from Messrs. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London

THE title of this book is a modest one for it is much more than 'Classic Descriptions of Disease', as it contains very many reproductions of portraits or photographs of the masters of medicine, and reproductions of title pages of famous ancient medical books and other interesting biographical illustrations. There is also a brief but comprehensive biographical note on each of the masters as an introduction to the description of the disease for which he is famous. This method of presentation greatly adds to the vividness of the description, because with the biographical sketch fresh in one's mind one almost feels the man himself is speaking.

Descriptions of malaria and yellow fever have been included in this edition, both of which will add to the interest and value of the book to workers in the tropics.

It is a book that should be of great benefit to the student towards the end of his studies and it should also be a source of constant pleasure and valuable information to the practising physician and surgeon.