psycho-therapy as an adjunct to drug treatment and the benefit of communal influence in a "home." He lays down among other essentials for successful treatment two special points, firstly, the whole-hearted desire of the patient to be cured and, secondly, a total and permanent abstinence after treatment.

The book is one which may be recommended to all practitioners without reserve.

E. H. V. H.

RECENT ADVANCES IN RADIOLOGY.—By Peter Kerley, M.B., B.Ch., D.M.R.E. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1931. Pp. viii plus 324, with 120 illustrations. Price, 12s. 6d.

In this little book of 309 pages the author writes "it is obviously impossible to deal at length with all the advances in radiology, hence those in technique and physics which convey little or nothing to the general medical man are largely omitted." His object has been to correlate pathological and radiological appearances in such a way as to simplify the interpretation of radiographs for those not practising radiology. Nevertheless, the text will be read with interest by the specialist in radiology. The book would appear to be more than a summary of recent advances, because the author in most cases gives an account of the older work on x-ray diagnosis.

The chapter on the lungs is particularly interesting because it gives an account of the recent work of Assman, Wessler and Jacques, Graeffe, and Kupferle, Burrell and Melville—a description which has fundamentally altered our ideas of the origin of tuberculosis in the lungs. The book is richly illustrated with copies of radiographs and black and white sketches. There is an extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter. Finally, there is a short chapter on x-ray therapy setting forth the latest technique in the treatment of malignant disease and including a description of the modern methods of measuring dosage. It is a volume which no general practitioner nor radiologist can afford to omit from his book-shelf.

J. A. S.

ROENTGEN INTERPRETATION. A MANUAL FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.—By George W. Holmes, M.D., and Howard E. Ruggles, M.D. Fourth Edition. Thoroughly Revised. London: Henry Kimpton, 1931. Pp. xii plus 339, illustrated with 237 engravings. Price, 21s. net.

This well-known work on x-ray diagnosis needs little introduction. It was one of the first works to deal with the subject from the point of view of interpretation and is admittedly a standard work. It has self-imposed limitations; e.g., in the preface we read "It is our purpose, as in the past, to present a brief survey of the field of Roentgen-ray diagnosis. Such a survey can do little more than cover the essentials of the subject."

The early chapters dealing with fractures, dislocations and bone pathology are fairly comprehensive and cover a wide range of conditions. The description in the text is usually brief and to the point. The reproductions of skiagrams, however, cannot be said to be anything like first class. Generally speaking the detail is poor and not up to the standard of other well-known works; e.g., the picture of a subperiosteal fracture of the tibia in figure 20 leaves everything to the imagination, and might have been omitted. Similar criticism applies to most of the skiagrams reproduced in other parts of the work. There are a few excellent reproductions, but the majority leave too much to the imagination.

The skull is dealt with in chapter 5 and there are some reproductions of ventriculograms. The sinuses, however, receive rather meagre attention, and there is no skiagram showing the sphenoidal sinuses in the special positions mentioned in the text.

There are some good pictures of the spine, and joints, tendons and bursae receive adequate attention.

As regards the chest, the heart and great vessels are well done, but in dealing with tuberculosis of the lungs

the authors do not mention any of the recent work found in the writings of Assman, Wessler and Jacques, Graeffe, Kupferle, Burrell, Melville and others. The non-tuberculous conditions of the lungs are better dealt with.

The x-ray examination of the gastro-intestinal tract is discussed on sound lines and there are some useful tracings.

Finally, there is an excellent outline of the examination of the genito-urinary tract, except that Uroselectan which is becoming increasingly important in this field is scantily dealt with, also there is only a very meagre description of the examination of the female genitals with Lipiodol, and of the uses of x-rays in the diagnosis of pregnancy and its complications.

The book on the whole is disappointing although it is useful as setting forth some of the American points of view.

J. A. S.

ANATOMY IN THE LIVING MODEL.—By Professor David Waterston, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E. London: Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 1931. Pp. 255, with 16 plates in colour and 74 figures, many in colour. Price, 25s. net.

THE book consists of 5 parts dealing with (1) the skin-covered surface of the body, (2 and 3) upper and lower limbs, (4) head and neck and (5) thorax and abdomen. The student while learning anatomical details by dissection is apt to forget that his knowledge thus earned is to be applied to the living subject when he studies medicine and surgery. The author in this book has guided the student in identifying all the parts in the living subject as far as practicable including bones, muscles and tendons, vessels, nerves and viscera. The chapter on the "skin-covered surface of the body" contains the subdivision of the skin into "arterial areas" in addition to nerve areas on a segmental plan and is very interesting. The movements of the joints have been very carefully dealt with. There are 16 plates in colour and 74 figures which are very instructive. The new nomenclature has been chiefly adopted though the old one has not been scrupulously avoided. The appendix contains useful practical exercises for the demonstration of the functions of nerves. The book is not meant to replace textbooks of anatomy which deal with anatomical details, but its study will supplement the training in anatomy with a view to its application to medicine and surgery. The get up of the book is excellent.

N. P.

THE SEXUAL LIFE OF MAN.—By Dr. Placzek. Second Edition. Translated from the German by L. S. Morgan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 1931. Pp. 314. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

THE book claims to be a review of the existing scientific knowledge about the sexual life of the human species. The author has attempted to cover the whole field of man's sexual life, anatomically, physiologically and psychologically. Even the forensic aspect of the problem from the German standpoint receives its measure of attention. It is a pity that the author displays so marked and, be it said, unreasonable an attitude of prejudice against the findings of psycho-analysis. It seems that he has relied almost entirely on the work of Sadger for information on psycho-analytical researches into the aetiology of the sexual impulse as well as the libido theory in general. He confounds the very divergent teachings of Freud and Jung, and even goes so far as to spell the name of the latter with a diæresis! In respect of the sexual life of children, the author's views are not only vague but strangely at variance with those held by accredited authorities on the subject. As might be expected, the psycho-analysts have a rough time of it here. It is noteworthy that the author makes no reference to the International League for Sexual Reform, in spite of the fact that German sexologists took a leading part in the

proceedings of its last congress held in September 1930. The book is provided with a fairly good bibliography, but as the book is meant mainly for Germans the references to works by non-German authors, with one or two exceptions, are only to their translations into that language.

O. A. R. B.-H.

ROSENTHALER'S CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF PLANTS.—By Sudhamoy Ghosh, D.Sc., F.R.S.E. Authorised translation of the third, improved and enlarged German edition. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., 1930. Pp. 197. Illustrated. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

AN increasingly large and healthy interest is now being taken by chemists and research workers in the various universities and academical institutions in the isolation and investigation of the active principles of medicinal plants. Unfortunately there are no suitable and authoritative books in the English language which can serve as a guide to workers in this field. The beginner is now compelled to spend—perhaps fruitlessly—a good deal of his valuable time in groping through a large mass of highly technical literature in order to find out a way for himself. To add to this, most of the journals dealing with the subject are in languages other than English and, to do justice to the literature, a thorough acquaintance with foreign tongues becomes essential. How embarrassing the position of the beginner becomes can, therefore, be easily estimated and it is no wonder that most people are scared away from rather than attracted to this field of research and investigation. Dr. Ghosh's translation is designed to fill this gap as far as the English-speaking worker is concerned, and it may be unreservedly said that he has eminently succeeded in his attempt.

The chapters are full of useful information and judged from the point of view of clearness and lucidity of exposition they are above reproach. A little more elaboration of the subject-matter, especially in those portions of the book dealing with methods of quantitative estimations, would certainly have been better, but this does not detract from the usefulness of the book in any way. The printing and format are excellent, and we are sure that, as a guide book for research in the domain of plant chemistry, it will prove of the highest service.

R. N. C.

EGYPT: THE HOME OF THE OCCULT SCIENCES.—By T. Gerald Garry, M.D., M.Ch., M.A.O., M.B.E. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 1931. Pp. 93. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

THE title of this book would lead one to believe that some information would be given about that great character Imhotep, as well as facts about Egyptian medical history. Unfortunately this hope was not realised, as the book is only a bad compilation of the little that is known of the subject. The author is a physician practising in Cairo, and one hoped that he would have been able to obtain a great deal of information about these matters from local sources. The book is full of inaccuracies; thus the explanation given of the magic signs, the Ded column symbolic of Osiris, the *ankh*, the symbol of life, and the Nefer are wrongly explained. The four interesting medical papyri, *i.e.*, the Ebers, the Hearst, the Edwin Smith and the Berlin, are dealt with in a couple of pages. The translation of these papyri has been done by non-medical men, and one would have thought that as the author is on the spot and has some knowledge of the occult and of the local indigenous system of medicine he would have been able to arrive at the translation of a few of the ingredients in the prescriptions. In the Ebers papyrus a small section is devoted to a disease of the aorta which the author has wrongly translated as aneurysm. In the North-West Frontier and the Punjab there is a popular belief that the aorta becomes dislocated from its bed and the disease is called *Nar* or *Dharan*, which must be the lesion alluded to in the

Ebers papyrus. This condition is seen amongst debilitated people when the pulsation of the aorta is not only felt, but is visible. Little or no attempt is made to follow the steps in the traditional history of that great character Imhotep, a vizier of the 3rd dynasty, circa B.C. 3200, who apparently was the first chief priest, as well as an architect and the most powerful intellectual man of his day. His name and fame were gradually transformed in the course of centuries, so that he became a titular deity in the Egyptian hierarchy. The author had a good opportunity to write a really interesting monograph, but unfortunately he failed to do so.

H. W. A.

PRACTICAL ANÆSTHETICS.—By C. F. Hadfield, M.B.E., M.A., M.D. (Cantab.). Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1931. Pp. xiv plus 336, with 41 figures in the text. Price, 7s. 6d. net.

THE second edition of this book is a great improvement on the first. Almost a third of the book is certainly new. Several chapters have been rewritten. A very useful chapter on spinal and splanchnic analgesia has been added. The use of Percain for spinal anaesthesia is a new method and it is bound to find favour with most surgeons. The chapter on local anaesthesia in dental practice will be helpful to students qualifying as dentists. Those specialising in anaesthesia would do well to go through the book carefully. It is a practical book on anaesthesia useful both for students and practitioners.

S. N. M.

Annual Reports.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR 1928. VOL. I. WITH APPENDICES. CALCUTTA: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH. 1931. PRICE, Rs. 3-6.

THIS is a very readable and highly interesting report. In his introductory chapter, General Graham outlines the present system of public health administration in India. He points out how the physical advancement and health of nations depend on the social evolution of the people and are attained only by foresight, advancement and expenditure. He quotes Sir George Newman's basic principle as to what a modern state must work to:—

(a) Ascertainment and accurate registration of the data obtainable.

(b) The establishing of a definite standard to work to, which should be based on health and physiology and not on disease and pestilence.

(c) The study of the character and incidence of disease, its causes and predisposing conditions, its mode of spread, the social factors which increase or reduce it, and the means of its treatment and prevention.

(d) The establishment of a national organisation by the assent of public opinion, such organisation being an index of the aspiration and enlightenment of the people.

Vital statistics.—The crude birth rate, death rate, and infantile mortality rate for 1928 were 36.78, 25.59, and 173. The natural increase of 11 per 1,000 is twice that of England, equal to that of New Zealand and Australia and less than that of Egypt.

Birth rate.—This was 36.78 per 1,000, an increase over that of 1927 which was 35.27. Practically all provinces recorded increased birth rates. 108 males are born to every 100 females in India. In the North-West Frontier Province the proportion is 131 to 100.

Death rate.—This was 25.59 per 1,000, against 24.89 in 1927. The lowest recorded death rate was in the North-West Frontier Province (1931) and the highest 33.66 per 1,000 (that of the Central Provinces). Some