There are in this volume 1,600 references, 35 beautifully-produced plates, and both a subject and an author's index. No medical institution of any standing can afford to be without these Annals.

L. E. N.

MONOGRAPHS OF THE PICKETT-THOMSON RESEARCH LABORATORY. Vol. I. The Vitamins.—

By E. Browning, M.D. (Liverpool). London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1931. Pp. xxxii plus 575, with 3 plates. Price, 42s. net

THE issuing of this monograph marks a new departure on the part of the Pickett-Thomson Research Laboratory. We have hitherto received a volume of their Annals each year; for some years past these have been devoted to the streptococci but they have always dealt with the subject of bacteriology. The subject of vitamins is a biochemical one, but, as Dr. Ethel Browning has suggested in the preface, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and the clinical aspect of the problem is the important one. She points out that there has of recent years been a tendency to concentrate on the chemical side of the problem, on the investigation as the exact nature of vitamins. There is still some doubt as to whether these really are chemical entities. She has therefore attempted to counteract this tendency, and in this monograph has paid special attention to the clinical and experimental aspects of the problem. We should perhaps add that this does not mean that the biochemical aspect has been neglected in this volume; far from it.

The monograph commences with an historical sketch. This takes us back into the dark ages (as far as our knowledge of vitamins is concerned) of 25 years ago. Prior to this a few isolated observations had been made regarding lemon juice in the treatment of scurvy. It may be said that the vitamin here was started by beri-beri. After these 25 years of intensive study of the subject we now know a great deal about vitamins, but it does not seem very certain that we know such a great deal more about beri-beri.

In part I, consisting of about 60 pages, vitamins in general are discussed; the other two parts are devoted to fat- and water-soluble vitamins, respectively. Each vitamin is dealt with separately under various headings, such as occurrence, chemical nature, stability, physiological effects of deficiency, pathogenesis of deficiency, and its presence in various foodstuffs.

There are about 350 pages of text, a very valuable table covering 50 pages from which one can see at a glance the vitamin content of any foodstuff, at least one can see which vitamin the various authorities on the subject have claimed for each foodstuff, but there is by no means unanimity of opinion in this matter; the author's summary and conclusions; about 3,000 references to the literature; seven full-page plates; and two separate indexes. The whole forms a magnificent piece of work. We heartily congratulate the author. No worker on the subject can possibly afford to be without this monograph, and we foresee that it will be a standard work on the subject for many years to come.

TEXTBOOK OF GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY.—By E. O. Jordan, Ph.D. Tenth Edition. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd. Pp. 819. 200 Illustrations. Price, 28s. net

THIS is the tenth edition of this well-known textbook on bacteriology. No radical changes have been made since the last edition, which was reviewed in this *Gazette* in December 1928. The scope of the work is the same and no new sections have been added. The length of the book is slightly increased.

It is a book well suited to the student, whilst giving the necessary details for identification and culture of the various organisms, it does not dwell unduly on the bacteriological aspect of the subject, but gives a few concise details of the diseases caused by the various micro-organisms and of the treatment to be adopted in combating the infections.

The main criticism we have to offer is that the author seems to be little aware of any recent work that has been done in any country other than America. This of course detracts from the book's value but probably not from its popularity, in America; in other countries, this trait of the author is likely to diminish the book's popularity as well as its value. The chapter on bacteriophage is very inadequate and not up to date.

The author has taken the wise precaution of obtaining the help of a protozoologist for the chapters on protozoa; Professor Taliaferro, who assisted him, has an established reputation in this branch of science. However, we challenge his right to Americanize the spelling of scientific names, e.g., *Endameba histolytica* is written as *Endameba histolytica*.

The book is quite up to the standard of its predecessors, as regards the information imparted and the quality of the format; in both instances these standards were high. We can confidently recommend the book to the student.

L. E. N.

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS BY LABORATORY METHODS.

—By James Campbell Todd, Ph.B., M.D., and Arthur Hawley Sanford, A.M., M.D. Seventh Edition. London and Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd., 1931. Pp. 765, with 347 illustrations, 29 in colours. Price, 28s. net

THERE are many books of this kind; the one on which the reviewer was nourished in his early days as a clinical pathologist was Sahli's, but that has not been reprinted, or at any rate has not been translated, for many years. The present volume seems to come as near as possible to replacing Sahli's classical work, and it will certainly take a place next to this book on the reviewer's bookshelf. Dr. Todd's book is in its seventh edition, and each edition has undergone many reprintings. Dr. Sanford, who became co-author of the last edition, has undertaken the present revision alone. The previous edition was published as recently as 1927, so that extensive additions were not necessary; the most important of these is a discussion on the Ascheim-Zondek test.

There is an introductory chapter on the use of the microscope and then successive chapters on examination of the sputum, the urine, the blood, gastric and duodenal contents, the faeces, animal parasites, pus and other body fluids, miscellaneous examinations including divers subjects such as the pregnancy tests and diagnosis of rabies, sero-diagnosis, bacteriological methods, and vaccines and skin tests: there is also an appendix on laboratory equipment and apparatus, and finally a useful index.

The chapter on the blood is very comprehensive; it covers nearly two hundred pages and would by itself make a useful monograph; it includes the cytology and the various counting methods, chemical examination, blood parasites, bacteriology, methods of detection of blood, and other examinations. The section on animal parasites is also good. The plate illustrating the ova found in stools is one of the best of its kind, it is prepared from actual photographs and is not the usual exceedingly 'diagrammatic' drawing. Even the sections which deal with parasites of tropical disease is free from the gross inaccuracies one is so used to in books of this nature. In many cases the subject is perhaps dealt with rather summarily and the details given would not materially assist any one unfamiliar with these diseases in arriving at a diagnosis; e.g., gland puncture is suggested as a diagnostic method in visceral leishmaniasis and there is no mention of the serum tests. On the other hand the coloured plates of malarial parasites should prove distinctly helpful, though we think it a pity to give an abnormal picture rather than a typical one; we do not doubt the genuineness of the 'exact reproduction' of the blood film showing a malignant tertian infection, but it may be many years before even the worker in the tropics sees a case in which there are as many as a million parasites per cubic