readers for whom it is written. Nearly half the book is devoted to inorganic chemistry, with one or two chapters on physical chemistry. The first ten chapters, with the applications in medicine and hygiene, have been very well written and afford a very instructive study. The treatment of the metals is rather scanty and the addition of some of the important compounds used in medicine would have increased its usefulness.

In the only four chapters devoted to the whole of organic and bio-chemistry, the treatment of the former is rather poor, considering the importance of that branch of chemistry. The chapter on vitamins is interesting, and the other chapters deal more with physiology proper than any principles of chemistry.

Part II of the book, dealing with laboratory experiments, will prove a very useful manual for practical work.

On the whole, the book affords a very interesting study and the author is to be congratulated on this new type of textbook.

S. G.

THE ELEMENTS OF GENERAL ZOOLOGY.—By William J. Dakin, D.Sc., F.Z.S. Bombay: Oxford University Press, and Constable & Co., 1927. Pp. xvi plus 496. Price, 12s. 6d. net.

This book on the elements of general zoology is different from other books on the subject in that the author has aimed at going more fully into the functions of the structures he is describing, these being usually neglected in the ordinary textbooks on the subject. In describing such organisms as an amoeba or paramoecium the author deals fully with their nutrition and such functions as respiration, excretion, reaction to physical and chemical agents, etc. In the section dealing with the biology of the multicellular organisms he describes the process of their evolution, and the working of the improved systems which have been evolved. In the last chapter general instructions for laboratory work, such as is required for the first examination for medical degrees are given. We welcome this book, which we consider constitutes an important step towards making the teaching of zoology of real help to students of medicine.

THE INDIAN MATERIA MEDICA.—By K. M. Nadkarni. Published by K. M. Nadkarni, Bombay. (Post Box 3558), 1927. Pp. xviii plus 1142, with Appendix and Index. Price, Rs. 11 or 18s.

THIS book, which is a compilation, deals with the drugs used in the indigenous systems of medicine, Ayurvedic and Unani, and also describes the home remedies commonly used by the people in this country. In the description of drugs, Sanskrit names as well as the common names applied to the drugs in the important Indian dialects are given. The habitats of plants the parts used for medication, their active principles and their actions and uses, as given in Ayurvedic and Unani books, are described; the important preparations of these drugs used in indigenous medicine and their mode of manufacture are also given. No attempt, however, has been made to include the recent scientific work on some of the drugs which has been carried out during the last decade. The book will interest students of the indigenous systems and those engaged in research work on the indigenous drugs of India.

A TEXTBOOK OF EXODONTIA.—By Leo Winter, D.D.S. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1927. Pp. 364, with 329 illustrations. Price, \$7.50.

THE first chapter of this book deals with general anaesthesia, and is contributed by J. T. Gwathmey, M.D. The writer prefers the sequence of gases which is so much in vogue in the United States. He suggests the use of nitrous oxide and oxygen, and if the patient is not under in 3 or 4 minutes, ethylene or warm ether is to be added to complete the narcosis. For a preliminary medication he is in favour giving an intramuscular injection of 2 c.c. of a 50 per cent. solution of magnesium

sulphate combined with 2.5 per cent. novocain and $\frac{1}{4}$ th grain of morphin sulphate.

Dr. Winter continues the rest of the book. He is definitely of the opinion that "novocain" is the most commendable of all the local anaesthetics known at the present time," and recommends its use for all dental operations. Apothesine, parathesine, tropocaine, halocaine, beta-eucaine, stovaine, alypin, butyn and tutocaine are each discarded in turn, owing to their unfavourable properties. The author is of the opinion that the trend in general dental surgery is away from general anaesthesia. Most American nose and throat specialists prefer local anaesthesia for oral surgical work, whenever possible.

The chapter on extra-oral injections is very well written and illustrated. The technique of injection of both infiltration and conductive anaesthesia is given in detail. A very desirable feature has been added in the shape of a chapter on the control of bleeding in oral surgical operations. The author gives the latest views upon blood coagulation and also describes blood tests which are suitable for use by dental surgeons.

The chapters on extraction are full of instructive details for all dental surgeons. Difficult cases, such as the removal of buried, misplaced and impacted teeth are dealt with in a masterly manner. The x-ray technique for the localization of misplaced teeth is very well described.

The book is excellent for those desiring to improve their knowledge in this branch of dental surgery. It is very well printed, illustrated and got up.

R. A.

TIGER TRAILS IN SOUTHERN ASIA.—By R. L. Sutton, M.D., Sc.D., F.R.S. (Edin.). St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1926. Pp. 207, with 115 Photographic Illustrations. Price, \$2.25.

VERSATILITY in genius is rare, and it is not often that one comes across it. Yet Dr. Sutton is a distinguished authority on dermatology, and also a redoubtable tiger-slayer; indeed his previous book "An African Holiday" had a very wide circulation as a work on travel and sport. We leave it to the followers of Freud to trace the connection between a professional interest in "skins," and tiger-shooting as a hobby and relaxation, but we thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Sutton's superbly illustrated book.

It deals with a holiday spent in tiger-shooting in Indo-China and Assam. It abounds in good stories, fascinating accounts of tribal customs and folk-lore, and is profusely illustrated with original photographs. It is a book which will make a strong appeal to the naturalist, the anthropologist, and the "shikari." Apart from the wonderful photographs of wild carnivora and elephants, some of the snake photographs are exceedingly good. Further, the publishers are to be most warmly congratulated on the excellence of its get-up and publication.

As a medical man, Dr. Sutton has wisely chosen the wilds for his hobby; and to any medical man in search of a fascinating volume for a leisure afternoon, or to any medical man who takes "shikar" seriously we would especially recommend this delightful volume of travel and adventure in real life.

SURPLUS FAT AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.—By W. F. Christie, M.D. London: Wm. Heinemann (Medical Books), 1927. Pp. 107. Price, 6s.

THIS is primarily a book for laymen, but one of considerable interest and importance to the medical profession. Also in these days of so-called rapid obesity cures, it is a book which is badly wanted, for it summarises the common-sense medical point of view of obesity. Further, it is most amusingly illustrated; indeed the artist deserves a word of praise to himself.

Dr. Christie's message to the obese is that they can cure a condition of embonpoint, which was not intended by Nature, if they will really take the matter in hand, and not seek a miraculous and impossible cure. Inheritance is often claimed to be an important factor in obesity, but the author claims that it is inheritance of