therapy, and the technique of application, readily and without wading through irrelevant matter.

There are of course faults inseparable from the treatment of this kind of subject. In some places the discussions tend towards verbosity and the reader is left involved in a plethora of information from which it is difficult to draw any positive conclusion. On the whole, however, the impression given by this book is that it provides a sound working guide to the employment of short wave therapy in general practice. The book combines the merits of an intelligible presentation of the scientific and medical aspects of this treatment with an annotated catalogue of world-wide experiences in the treatment of a large number of diseases.

J. A. S.

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL STATISTICS.—By A. Bradford Hill, D.Sc., Ph.D. Second Edition. 1939. Published by The Lancet Limited (7, Adam Street, Adelphi), London. Pp. vii plus 189. Illustrated. Price, 6s.

It is about 18 months since we drew attention to the first edition of this valuable book in an editorial note on medical statistics. We particularly commended it to would-be contributors to this journal, and there has been some evidence during the last year that our advice was not unheeded.

The book has obviously been a great success; there is little change in this new edition, as little improvement was possible. The author says that he has endeavoured to clarify certain points which appeared to confuse readers of the first edition, and he has added a chapter in which the usual methods of calculating standardized death rates are illustrated and discussed in detail.

We can only repeat what we said about the first edition; it is a book for which there was an obvious demand and it supplies that demand in the best possible manner.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.—By G. G. Deaver, M.D., B.P.E. 1939. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. 299. With 126 illustrations. Price, 12s. 6d.

THE purpose of the book is to provide physical educators, students, public health and school nurses with a manual that will aid them in recognizing the early manifestations of abnormal functioning of the body and in understanding the technique and medical nomenclature of the physician.

The different chapters deal with how the medical history has to be taken, and the physical examination of the different systems and the different tests of efficiency of vision, hearing, muscular power, etc., have to be carried out. Besides containing the actual methods of conducting an examination, each chapter contains 'Lessons to be written', 'Laboratory work' and a 'Self test', three outstanding aids that have long proved valuable media for effective teaching.

The book is well written and gives the information necessary for the recognition of early symptoms and signs of bodily disease and the detection of bodily deformity. It should prove useful to those for whom it is written.

P. C. S. G.

A DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS: PRONUNCIATION, DERIVATION, AND DEFINITION OF TERMS IN BIOLOGY, BOTANY, ZOOLOGY, ANATOMY, CYTOLOGY, EMBRYOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY.—By I. F. Henderson, M.A., and W. D. Henderson, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E. Third Edition. Revised by J. H. Kenneth, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.E. 1939. Oliver and Boyd, Limited, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh. Pp. xii plus 383. Price, 16s.

THE scope of this specialized dictionary may be adequately described by the following sentence taken from the preface. The subjects selected for treatment are Biology and its allies, Anatomy, Botany, Zoology, Embryology, Cytology, Physiology; some terms in Bacteriology and Palaeontology are included.

It is more than a bare list of definitions because the roots of each word are given, and this makes it much more valuable as it enables the student to acquire an intelligent conception of the real meanings of the words, and on this account to remember them more easily.

This is a book that students of any of the above subjects would be well advised to have constantly within easy reach on their desks, because in it will be found many terms that are not in an ordinary dictionary and a large dictionary or encyclopædia is unsuitable for this purpose on the grounds of bulk and the fact that they are too expensive for the average student.

MEDICAL ORGANIZATION AND SURGICAL PRACTICE IN AIR RAIDS.—By P. H. Mitchiner, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., and E. M. Cowell, D.S.O., T.D., M.D., B.S., F.R.C.S. 1939. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. viii plus 247, with 50 illustrations, including 1 coloured plate. Price, 10s. 6d.

WITH war-clouds hanging over Europe, almost every government is busy with organization of anti-air-raid precautions and measures for medical relief of victims of future air raids. The authors are to be congratulated on this timely publication dealing with organization of medical relief and surgical practice in air raids. Both Mr. Mitchiner and Colonel Cowell had considerable experience of surgery during the Great War, and Colonel Cowell went to Spain in December 1938 to acquire first-hand information on modern air raid casualties. The members of the medical profession 'who have fortunately been spared the experience of war', have the benefit of the accumulated experience of the authors in this valuable book.

The details of organization and administration of different units in medical relief, namely first-aid parties, dressing stations, casualty clearing hospitals, base hospitals, etc., have been dealt with in one chapter. These are based on the scheme as envisaged by the British Ministry of Health. The chapter on air attack, its methods and the effects of aerial bombardment, and the methods of protection from air attack make particularly interesting reading. The authors have dealt with the treatment of different types of wounds and their complications briefly, stressing the difference in technique that exists between civil and air raid practice. The various injuries that may be inflicted on different parts of the body during air raids have been adequately dealt with.

There are numerous excellent illustrations showing the various types of injury caused during air raids, and their treatment. A photograph of spreading cutaneous gas gangrene starting in an infected appendectomy wound, however, does not fall into the category of injury (or its complications) caused by air raids.

A chapter has been devoted to organization of nursing, and appendices deal with first aid and transport, chemical warfare, details of equipment of mobile surgical units and x-ray units.

The book will be found valuable by members of the medical profession engaged in A. R. P. work, as also by those engaged in nursing, or first aid work.

THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE BRACHIAL PLEXUS—WITH A NOTE ON THE PECTORAL MUSCLE AND ITS TENDON TWIST.—By W. Harris, M.D., F.R.C.P. 1939. Oxford University Press, London: Humphrey Milford. Pp. xviii plus 117. Illustrated. Price, 25s. Obtainable from Oxford University Press, Bombay and Calcutta

THIS is an interesting work on the comparative anatomy of a very important nerve plexus with a short account of the pectoralis major muscle, which gives a new conception of the variations noted in the muscle in different types of animal, depending on the different functions it is called upon to perform.

It is an extremely painstaking effort which has spread over 37 years and is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of the author, because the immense amount of work it has entailed, containing as it does