diseases by Sir Leonard Rogers. Dr. J. D. Rolleston deals with acute infectious diseases. We need only mention these three names to show the importance of these sections.

We would urge every general practitioner in India to buy this volume, for he will find it invaluable.

DISEASES TRANSMITTED FROM ANIMALS TO MAN.—By T. G. Hull, Chief Bacteriologist, Illinois Department of Public Health. Pp. XI plus 350, with 29 text figures. 1930. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Price, 25s.

THIS is a most interesting and timely publication, for it gathers together into brief compass the essential knowledge with regard to the diseases transmissible from animals to man that has resulted from the labours of scores of pioneers in research work during the present century. The information here collected into small compass had previously been scattered through a wide diversity of textbooks and journals, and both medical men and veterinarians alike will appreciate the value of this handbook.

In a way it is rather disappointing that the author adopts the catalogue rather than the essay style, for in his concluding section he just glances at a most fascinating line of argument. Civilised man of to-day has gathered around him a collection of domesticated animals which are the descendants of wild strains; the placid cow of to-day had wild cattle for its ancestry, the horse has been domesticated since at least 2000 B.C. and probably earlier, swine were first domesticated in China about 2900 B.C., the dog is cousin to the wolf, whilst the rat—originating in Asia—has followed man and his food supplies into every part of the world. And as man became more civilised and his animals more domesticated, the association of man and animals became more close, and with this the increasing transmission of diseases from animals to man, and even vice versa. This thesis is a most interesting one, for it is obvious that such an evolutionary process is probably not now ended, and the present world-wide outbreak of psittacosis shows what future possibilities may be in store. Hence the importance of a close liaison between medicine and veterinary science, and the special value of this book at the present juncture.

Turning to a more general survey of the book, tuberculosis is the first disease dealt with, and here there is a wealth of information for the medical man, the public health worker, and the veterinarian. Special features of the book are the useful summaries at the end of each chapter, and the selected brief bibliographies on each subject. Man is moderately susceptible to the bovine type of infection, but fortunately but very slightly susceptible to avian tuberculosis; hogs are susceptible to all three strains, and immunization of calves by vaccination with living avirulent organisms (B. C. G.) has not given encouraging results in the United States and Canada.

Anthrax was known to the Pharaohs. No measure save the destruction of infected animals is of any value, but the shaving brush has practically ceased to be a menace in countries where special regulations are in force. Foot and mouth disease is adequately described; it is chiefly transmissible to children. The *abortus-melitensis* group of organisms is fully dealt with; the caprine strain has developed virulent properties for man, the bovine strain rarely affects man, but the porcine strain is extremely virulent for man. In this chapter we have a brief but extremely useful summary of this world-wide problem. Milk sickness, due to poisoning by trematol, a complex alcohol found in the white snake root and the rayless golden rod, is a disease rarely transmitted to man by cattle. Actinomycosis is essentially a rural disease.

Smallpox and cowpox are next briefly reviewed. The figures for vaccination in the United States are very striking; in States where vaccination is compulsory for school attendance the case incidence was 9.5 per 100,000 population; in States where it is prohibited or restricted the incidence was 102 per 100,000 population.

Glanders often affects veterinary workers. With regard to rabies a useful summary of the present position with regard to different countries in the world is given. Here the two illustrations of ineffective and effective types of muzzles are useful. It is a pity, however, that the author has apparently not had access to the rabies literature in India, for he barely mentions Semple's carbolised vaccine, takes most of his statistics from European institutes, and omits any mention of the work of Aton and Harvey on the Negri body. The chapter on psittacosis will have to be modified in a future edition in view of recent research work on the disease. On the other hand the chapter on food poisoning is of special value, for it gathers together a mass of useful information culled from a wide series of sources, with a useful bibliography. Animal parasites—all of them helminths—are then dealt with.

In the second section of the book diseases of rodents are dealt with. Plague is well dealt with, but again recent work in India is omitted. (The book indeed is largely written from the American standpoint, as was inevitable; thus the ground squirrel of California receives rather more attention than it perhaps deserves.) Tularemia is dealt with in full detail, as might be expected from an American author. In connection with spirochaetal jaundice, we doubt whether the statement that spirochaetal jaundice is a new disease dating from 1916, is correct; what was almost certainly the same disease was prevalent in Napoleon's army in Egypt in 1800, and also in the American Civil War; recent work also goes to show that rats, dogs, and man are alike infected from bathing in infected waters rather than from each other. In the brief section on rat-bite fever the Indian work on this disease is completely neglected, whilst the micro-organism responsible is termed *Spirochaeta morsus muris* instead of *Spirillum minus*, as it should be; Robertson's important monograph of 1924 has also apparently not been consulted.

Other diseases dealt with are Rocky Mountain spotted fever—and, with regard to animals as passive carriers of disease organisms—botulism, tetanus, and gas gangrene. The section on what are essentially human diseases which may be transmitted to animals includes much collected information on the milk transmission of septic sore throat, on animals susceptible to diphtheria and scarlet fever; whilst the most useful chapter in the book is a review of the rôle played by different types of animals in the spread of diseases, in which each species of animal is considered in turn. This is the most original section of the book. There are good indexes of authors and subjects.

Dr. Hull's book, we believe, will appeal to a very wide circle of readers. A copy of it should certainly be in every medical and veterinary library in India. On the other hand one cannot help feeling that the book is too parochial in its outlook. The protozoa are almost completely neglected; for example, the tremendously important problem of the possible relationship of sleeping sickness of man to *Trypanosoma brucei* infection of wild game in Africa is not mentioned. The literature quoted is mostly from American (and sometimes continental) sources. We regard Dr. Hull's book as a most praiseworthy attempt, and a most useful volume, both to read and for purposes of reference; but, if, as we hope, a second edition is called for, we would suggest that he should collaborate with a second author with tropical experience. There is badly needed a rather more comprehensive work dealing with this subject, and including more parasitology than the present volume contains.

R. K.

A TREATISE ON MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.—By B. N. Ghosh, F.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.). Twelfth edition, 1930. Pp. XII plus 763. Calcutta: Hilton & Co. Price, Rs. 7-8-0. London Agents: H. K. Lewis & Co. Price, 12s. 6d.

It is scarcely necessary for us to bring this well known book in its new edition to the notice of our readers.