

The statistical conclusion reached is that a principal difference between the cancer patients and the controls is the quantitative and qualitative richness of the diets of the former. Although it may not be universally accepted, the accumulation of data in this book is commendable.

R. C.

DISEASES OF THE EYE: A TEXTBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.—By Eugene Wolff, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). 1937. Cassell and Company, Limited, London. Pp. xi plus 234, with 120 text illustrations and 5 coloured plates. Price, 15s.

In the last few years so many small textbooks on diseases of the eye for the use of students and medical men have been published that one wonders at the appearance of yet another. The book consists of 225 pages divided into 24 chapters, 120 figures and 5 coloured plates.

There is nothing new in the subject-matter, but one is impressed by the number of anatomical drawings which very rightly places emphasis on the importance of a sound knowledge of anatomy in the study of ophthalmology. These are excellently produced but are mostly standard ones, although the author has taken credit for their originality in many cases.

The treatment of trachoma and its sequelæ are open to criticism. Few will agree that daily paintings with 2 per cent silver nitrate are necessary when less painful applications are equally efficacious. To the experienced ophthalmologist the only satisfactory treatment for cicatricial entropion is the Webster's mucous-graft operation. Few will agree that an iritis occurs in most cases of cataract extraction and that a general anaesthesia is necessary for the removal of a post-operative iris prolapse. The importance of facial akinesia and its technique have been unfortunately omitted, likewise pre-operative hypnotics. The author will indeed be fortunate if he can get patients to remain in bed for 10 to 12 days after the removal of a cataract and it is hardly necessary to do so after three days.

The book is well written, profusely illustrated, and its teaching orthodox.

We can strongly recommend it as a useful and thoroughly practical book for students and medical men working in India.

E. O'G. K.

THE RÔLE OF CHEMIOTAXIS IN BONE GROWTH.—By A. P. Bertwistle, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.). 1937. Henry Kimpton, London. Pp. xii plus 59, with 32 illustrations. Price, 8s. 6d.

This is a small book but it embodies an interesting and novel idea in connection with bone formation. This subject has been in the past, and still is, a matter for speculation, but the problem remains unsolved all the same. The theory advanced by the author of this volume will therefore be an interesting addition to it.

The object of this book is to describe what the author has chosen to call 'disruptive chemiotaxis', i.e., 'the power of certain substances of attracting and drawing into themselves certain soft, living structures'. With the help of such a process, which however is new to medicine, he wants 'to lay down a law which, based on histological grounds, will be found to cover the whole field of bone pathology, viz, that whenever young fibrous tissue, particularly young blood vessels, come in contact with bone or a calcified deposit, new bone formation occurs'. It must be confessed however that though these terms are quite attractive the perusal of the book does not carry much conviction and it gives one the impression that their introduction to scientific literature is hardly justified.

The book contains some good descriptions of the histology and development of bone and a fairly good account of the relation of the periosteum to bone growth. The chapter dealing with ectopic bone formation may also be read with interest. At the end of each chapter there is a list of references which are fairly comprehensive. The paper, printing and execution of the diagrams are all very good.

It is somewhat difficult to know exactly the aim of the writer in publishing a book of this nature. The descriptions are too short and sketchy in character and in some places not up to date. The use of the words myeloma for giant-celled tumour (osteoclastoma) and endosteal and periosteal sarcoma for osteogenic sarcoma cannot be taken as very modern. But in spite of all these drawbacks the writer is to be congratulated for the ingenuity of his ideas and the book should be read by all who may be interested in the subject of osteology.

M. N. D.

DRUGS AND GALENICALS: THEIR QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS.—By D. C. Garratt, B.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.), F.I.C. 1937. Chapman and Hall Limited, London (Henrietta Street, W.C.2). Pp. xiv plus 422. Price, 25s.

As the name indicates, the book deals only with the quantitative analysis of drugs and galenicals. The drugs have been arranged alphabetically and the general scheme adopted is that used in the *British Pharmaceutical Codex*. The principle involved in each method has been shortly explained, and this is followed by a concise but clear description of the experimental details. The reference to the original papers completes the monograph on each substance.

The methods given in *British Pharmacopœia* 1932 have been avoided unless they are of general application. The author has supplemented most of the methods by additional explanatory notes which make them very valuable to workers who have not attained sufficient experience. Alternative methods, depending upon entirely different principles, have been suggested to enable one to check his results wherever possible, and of the published methods only those which showed no inherent weaknesses and were found to be based on sound scientific principles have been included. Separate sections have been allotted to fixed oils and fats and essential oils, and there are some useful appendices.

The wide experience of the author in this branch has thus enabled him to collect a large fund of useful material in a concise volume. The determination of small quantities is claimed to be a new feature in the monographs and the manual should therefore be useful to those engaged in toxicological work. The book should prove extremely valuable not only to analysts engaged in the examination of drugs and galenicals but also to various research workers in the wider field of plant products of scientific and economic importance.

S. G.

CHEMICAL METHODS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE: THEIR APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION WITH THE TECHNIQUE OF THE SIMPLE TESTS.—By G. A. Harrison, B.A., M.D., B.Ch. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1937. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. xi plus 585, with 3 coloured plates and 86 illustrations. Price, 21s.

A QUARTER of a century ago the chemical pathologist was a novelty, even on the staff of a general hospital, and we remember the lifted eyebrows when the predecessor to the author of the book under review was appointed to one of London's largest hospitals. Times have, however, changed and the help of the chemical pathologist, or biochemist as he is now more often called, is more important to most physicians than that of the bacteriologist. Nor do we believe that he has yet reached the peak of his usefulness.

The great advances that have been made during the last seven years have necessitated complete revision and considerable expansion of this book. Amongst the sections that have been revised is that on the van den Bergh test: the old cut-and-dried explanation of the 'direct' and 'indirect' reaction—'non-direct' would be a better term, the author considers—is given, but rather as a matter of history and without any conviction that it is the right one—in fact with a fair degree of certainty that it is not. For practical purposes he considers the 'indirect' test one of considerable value, but the 'direct' one liable to misinterpretation.

The description of gastric analysis is very clear and there are some helpful 'tips' which other books usually omit; there is also a useful table of the gastric findings in different conditions. Uffelmann's test for lactic acid is given. The next paragraph opens with the statement that 'qualitative tests for lactic acid are unsatisfactory'; it seems probable that this is a misprint for 'quantitative'.

Fouchet's test for bilirubin in the urine is given and is illustrated by a coloured plate.

A few important references are given at the end of most of the chapters; this is a point where more completeness would be welcomed by, we believe, most readers.

On the whole it is a very practical and generally useful book which we can strongly recommend to both physicians and biochemists.

L. E. N.

FLUORINE INTOXICATION: A CLINICAL HYGIENIC STUDY WITH A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND SOME EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION.—By Kaj Roholm. 1937. Published by Nyt Nordisk Forlag, Arnold Busck, Copenhagen (Graabrdretory, 14). Pp. xi plus 364. Illustrated. Obtainable from H. K. Lewis and Company, Limited, London

THIS volume is a comprehensive review of the whole problem of fluorine in biology with special reference to its importance in industrial poisoning. The symptoms of fluorine poisoning in man and animals and its absorption, excretion and retention in the tissues are fully discussed. Several chapters are devoted to experimental work on rats, pigs, calves and dogs. The morbid anatomy, histology and biochemical changes in fluorine poisoning are well treated and should be of considerable interest both to the pathologist and clinician alike. The pathological changes found in the bones are a case in point. There are a number of first-class illustrations and a comprehensive review. So many organs are affected in this condition that indeed almost any medical man should be able to cull something of interest from its pages.

A TEXTBOOK OF NEURO-ANATOMY.—By Albert Kuntz, Ph.D., M.D. Second Edition. 1937. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. 519. Illustrated with 307 engravings. Price, 27s.

In this second edition of the book, the first of which was published about six years ago, much of the text has been revised and some of its contents have been rewritten. The book has improved in many details of its text and diagrams, most of which are truly illustrative of the context.

In going through this book one is struck with some special quality which is not usually seen in the ordinary textbooks. The scheme of the book is scientific, comprehensive and is indeed well designed and of a high order. Endeavour has been made to work out the details of the complicated anatomy of the human central nervous system on the basis of the simpler fundamentals of the vertebral nervous system and to correlate those details with the basic structural plan—an endeavour wholly scientific.

Notwithstanding the expressed object of the author, to write a book to enable the beginner to grasp the difficult subject easily, we think the presentation has been carried beyond the easy understanding of the under-graduate medical students. The book however is comprehensive and the attempts of the author in dealing with the subject from the standpoint of comparative anatomy, phylogenetic and fundamental structural relationship will be appreciated more by that group of advanced students who are interested in further studies of the central nervous system and its disorders. Every part has been discussed with the microscopic and gross anatomy and also in relation to its functional significance. One will therefore find every aspect of the nervous system which is to be learnt for the investigation of its disorders.

A practical utility of the book will be seen at the end in so far as it has given the practical methods to be applied in the study of the more important parts of the central nervous system. The value of the book has been further enhanced by the introduction of a series of clinical illustrations which will be very profitably read by those who are engaged in the special study of nervous disorders.

We have nothing but praise of the publisher's task which has been done creditably throughout.

M. N. D.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF MODERN TREATMENT OF FRACTURES.—By H. W. Spiers, A.B., M.D. Second Edition. 1937. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. ix plus 137. Illustrated. Price, 9s.

THIS little book from the pen of the professor of orthopaedic and fracture surgery, College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, California, has deservedly entered its second edition and is likely to continue in demand. Fundamentals are not obscured and accepted practice is clearly stressed. The text is to the point and the illustrations are clear-cut line drawings. There are no useless x-ray reproductions. The senior student who has digested the contents of this short treatise will ensure for himself a sound foundation in this difficult branch of practical surgery. The publishers are to be congratulated on the paper used in this book. The absence of glaze is surprisingly easy on the eyes especially by artificial light.

H. R. R.

ANTENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE.—By F. J. Browne, M.D. (Aberd.), D.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.C.O.G. Second Edition. 1937. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. xviii plus 588, with 79 illustrations. Price, 18s.

PROFESSOR BROWNE'S 'Antenatal and Postnatal Care' has already become a standard textbook on this subject. The second edition will be welcomed for the addition of much useful material which widens the scope and usefulness of the book.

There is a new chapter on constructive educational and social aspects of antenatal care by Professor Fairburn and another on the subject of radiology in obstetrics by Dr. R. W. A. Salmond. The section on diet in pregnancy has been enlarged and more prominence given to this important subject. The section on postnatal care now includes a description of puerperal exercises but the hygiene of the later puerperium and the care of the lactating woman still receive very little attention.

M. I. N.

MOTHCRAFT: ANTENATAL AND POSTNATAL.—By Reginald C. Jewesbury, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Second Edition. 1937. J. and A. Churchill, Limited, London. Pp. ix plus 188, with 21 illustrations, 13 in colour. Price, 10s. 6d.

THIS excellent book is based on the principles of Sir Truby King's methods of infant feeding. The author states 'I have adhered to these principles because I consider they are founded on sound common sense, that they provide a scientific working guide, and, last but not least, that the results obtained from them are eminently satisfactory as judged from their practical application to a very large number of infants in this country (England). The remarkable work of Truby King in New Zealand is widely known but perhaps the most striking testimony of it is the marked fall in the infantile death rate in the Dominion since he devoted himself to infant welfare'.

While the principles of Sir Truby King's methods have been widely accepted the practical application of them has been necessarily limited to countries where special facilities and more extensive mothercraft teaching are readily available. The present edition has, by recommending whole milk and the introduction of solid food at an earlier age, indicated lines along which the