

out of proportion, and a more confusing and misleading illustration it would be hard to conceive.

In a book professing to go into minute details and to give reliable information, we are astonished to find, under the differential stain for tubercle bacillus, such a statement as "Decolorise by dipping in sulphuric acid—25 per cent." without any limit as to time; and similarly in the modified Gram-Weigert method, "Treat with aniline oil," "treat again with aniline oil," whether for one minute or for one hour we are not told. There is much in the book of considerable value, especially in regard to standardising of media, methods of isolation and identification, but these are so mixed up with unimportant and trivial details, that the book is hopeless as a laboratory guide to students or even as a book of reference.

J. M. BEATTIE.

*The Blood: how to Examine and Diagnose its Diseases.* By ALFRED C. COLES, M.D. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill.

*Diagnosis by means of the Blood.* By ROBERT LINCOLN WATKINS, M.D. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co. Ltd.

THE former edition of Dr. Coles' work on the blood was one of the best of the smaller monographs on this important subject. In the new edition there is ample evidence that the work has been thoroughly revised. Much new matter is also introduced, in the sections dealing with malaria, filariasis, eosinophilia, and the staining of films for example. The general methods of examination, the morphology of the cellular elements, and the blood in disease, are dealt with in a manner at once concise and clear, and the work undoubtedly forms an admirable monograph. It is not an exhaustive treatise, however, for there is no mention made of Haldane's method of estimating hæmoglobin, chloroma, the serum reactions in paratyphoid and Malta fevers; or the methods for determining the specific gravity and alkalinity of the blood, or for the detection of bacteria in the blood.

DR. WATKINS' book is a remarkable one. The author uses no stains, but examines "live blood fresh, as soon as it is drawn, in order to note the changes that take place." He regards the chromatin filaments in the nucleus of a leucoblast as fibrin filaments, and the nuclear membrane as equivalent to the cell wall of the red corpuscles. "Granular matter" in the blood he terms "tuberculous matter." Microcytes are especially noticeable "in functional nervous disorders, in which the patient is fidgety." "Rheumatism . . . is characterised by a thickened adhesive condition of the red blood cells." Fibrin "is a fine, invisible network which circulates in the blood continually wherever it goes." The fibrin skein in one case "stopped in the brain of a man in the night, and he never woke to know what killed him." And yet the author is presumably an American. But perhaps the gem of the work is the diagnosis made in one case in which the fibrin "is broken in spots, thus showing that, if not his constitution, something is shattered." The author displays a pitiable ignorance of even elementary facts, his knowledge is crude in the extreme, and he will be disappointed, "for he desires the book to sell only on its merits."

W. T. RITCHIE.