

Toxicology does not find much room in this book. It has been condensed and rightly condensed: Most of it is a clinical matter based on materia medica pharmacy and pharmacology. Acute alcoholic intoxication, however, has been expanded well and will be found useful even in the dry States of India.

The paper, printing and binding are very good. The price is not excessive for such a work.

A medicolegal practitioner must have a copy of this excellent publication which will provide him with many 'persuasive' authorities.

S. D. S. G.

**A MANUAL OF CLINICAL ALLERGY: ILLUSTRATED.**—By J. M. Sheldon, R. G. Lovell and K. P. Mathews. 1953. W. B. Saunders Company Ltd., London. Pp. xv plus 413. Price, 59s. 6d.

PHYSICIANS desirous of specialization in allergy practice will find the book particularly helpful. Most of the space in it is devoted to practical work including the identification of pollen, fungi and moulds. The theories including controversies, finds the minimum treatment.

Random samples are: (1) Allergens are environmental agents which do not satisfy the classical definition of antigens. The protein nature of the active agents in pollen is in doubt. An allergen is identified by its reaction on the body. Many substances form, at the site of injection, conjugate proteins which are antigens. (2) In skin testing the patient should have discontinued all medication against allergy the evening before the day of testing, although ACTH and cortisone do not interfere significantly. (3) The scratch (about 2 mm. in length) or prick test should be carried out before the intracutaneous test. In nearly all the reported deaths this precaution was omitted. (4) Reading of reaction after about 20 minutes: + = Erythema up to 21 mm. in diameter. ++ = Erythema larger than 21 mm. in diameter. +++ = Erythema with a wheal in the centre. ++++ = A wheal with pseudopods. After obtaining a ++ reaction an intracutaneous reaction should not be performed with that antigen. The intracutaneous reaction should not be performed the same day. (5) May fly and Asthma. May fly constitutes approximately half of the food of fish in the Great Lakes (U.S.A.). The larvæ live under water for 2 to 3 years. Then they come to surface as nymphs and burst. The insect flies to land and sheds the outer skin as pellicle which is carried 5 to 10 miles in land. Its fragments produce symptoms in sensitized patients. Adult flies do not eat but only mate, fly over the lake, drop eggs and die. (6) Silk acts almost always as an inhalant allergen rather than a contact antigen. (7) Headache associated with allergic rhinitis. Three mechanisms are concerned: (i) pain of swollen mucosa, (ii) closure

of orifices of sinuses by swelling or (iii) hypoglycæmia because of special allergy diet. The reader will find many new items and suggestions.

The pictures of pollen, fungi and moulds are excellent.

The paper, printing and binding are very good. An excellent publication.

S. D. S. G.

**PATHOLOGICAL HISTOLOGY.**—By R. F. Ogilvie. Fourth Edition. 1951. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh. Pp. xii plus 506. Price, 40s.

THE reproduction of typical sections of morbid tissues by colour photography, bringing out the details of staining, is the special feature of this book. There are in it 295 photo-micrographs in colour; many more black and white illustrations in bigger books on the subject do not compensate the young pathologist for the feature.

The description of the picture, given as legend, is sufficient for revision after the main text has been read once.

With the aid of this book the student will revise his slides and the expert will resolve his doubt on a section of apparently atypical tissue.

The student particularly interested in the subject will buy a copy which he will use always, perhaps replacing it occasionally by a new edition.

The book can be used as a textbook also. It gives the latest information on theory: Instances will be found in Pernicious Anæmia, Lung Cancer, Nephritis and Crush Syndrome.

The paper, the printing and the binding are excellent. The price, after a little increase over that of the last edition, is not excessive for a work of this kind.

S. D. S. G.

**PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.**—By G. M. Lewis. 1952. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. Pp. x plus 328. Price, 37s. 6d.

THAT a useful book need not be very big is proved by books like this.

In 25 short chapters and a short section on Systemic Medication the author has succeeded in telling students and general practitioners all about the subject. This success he has achieved by keeping the text under control and by providing pictures of a high quality. Perhaps the text deserves greater praise: marginal headings (and sub-headings) and differences in type attract attention almost like the pictures.

Treatment includes the latest measures tried. Even ultimately fatal disease, like pemphigus and mycosis fungoides can be controlled for at least some time.

It is hoped that the book will keep its size, in the