

on the peculiar development of pathological processes.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th chapters deal with inflammations involving the eyeball as a whole, with focal lesions and with specific diseases affecting the different parts of the eyeball. The author points out that the etiology of iritis, cyclitis and choroiditis still leave much in doubt and many cases of these conditions occur which cannot be accounted for by specific or focal infections. It is difficult to explain why organisms can attack the tissues of the eye and yet do no damage to the lungs through which they must first pass.

The fifth chapter is devoted to injuries of the eye. The chapter on cataract forms most interesting reading and the author advances the theory that senile cataract is due, in some forms at least, to the normal decrease in permeability of the lens capsule. Discussing glaucoma, the author favours the secretion theory of the formation of the intra-ocular fluids rather than by a process of dialysis, and is of opinion that acute glaucoma is the result of a local vaso-motor crisis, manifesting itself by a dilatation and an increased permeability of the capillaries of the ciliary body.

Chapter 8 deals with senile changes and arterio-sclerosis, and in it the author states that venous sclerosis in the retina is common in contra-distinction to venous sclerosis in other organs where it is rare. This is due to an anatomical peculiarity of the retina caused by the actual encroachment of the thickened arterial and venous walls upon the common space within the common arteriovenous fibrous coat at the point of crossing.

Chapter 9 deals with choked disc and albuminuric retinitis. Oedema of the optic disc is discussed but the mechanism of the changes brought about still remains obscure.

Diseases of metabolism, of nutrition, and of the endocrine glands are discussed in chapter 10, and this section will be of interest to workers in India where diseases of the eye due to vitamine deficiency are so common.

Chapters 11 and 12 deal with diseases of the cornea, conjunctivitis, and ocular adnexa. The causation of trachoma is discussed but no definite causation is yet known. Noguchi has recently isolated an organism related to *Bartonella bacilliformis* with which it has been possible to infect monkeys and produce a disease not unlike trachoma. The evidence is suggestive but not conclusive.

Chapters are also devoted to congenital anomalies, hereditary diseases and tumours.

The book is a most excellent work, written in clear and simple style and is full of original observations and deductions. The illustrations are good, mainly micro-photographs, and are numerous.

We cordially recommend this book to our readers; it will be found most useful and helpful to all who are interested in diseases of the eye.

E. O'G. K.

BERGEY'S MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY.—By D. H. Bergey. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1930. Pp. XVII plus 589. Price, 27s. net.

THIS well-known manual is now in its third edition, and supplies a very long-felt want amongst bacteriologists. It is the only authoritative work on the subject which gives a description of the majority of the organisms known to this science. The book should be in every laboratory where cultural work is being undertaken for agriculture, hygiene or medicine. The present edition has been brought up to date, and several alterations have taken place in the nomenclature. The genus *Eberthella* has now been divided into two genera, i.e., the genus *Shigella* which includes the dysentery group, and the true *Eberthella*, the typhoid group. In the family *Mycobacteriaceæ*, four new genera are described. There are several points in a book such as this which are open to criticism, for example the so-called *Micrococcus melitensis* and *B. abortus* (Bang) have been placed in the genus *Alkaligenes*, whereas they

are much more closely allied to the genus *Pasteurella*. Again in many of the keys the organisms are divided not according to morphological characters, but upon their pathogenic or saprophytic habits. The cultural characters of the *Mycobacterium lepræ* are given in detail, but it is still very doubtful whether this organism has ever been cultivated. We are inclined to think that too much stress has been laid on the behaviour of the growth of these organisms rather than on their morphological characters. Thus the genus *Actinomyces* is divided into four separate headings, viz., animal parasites, plant parasites, saprophytes, and thermophilic saprophytes, whilst secondary importance has been attached to the morphology of these parasites. Our experience leads us to believe that most of the so-called parasitic *Actinomyces* have a normal saprophytic existence in the soil, and only become parasitic when accidentally introduced into the tissues of man by trauma.

The order Spirochætaceæ has been divided into six genera, two of the genera contain organisms which are free living in water, namely, *Saprosira* and *Spirochæta*. Four of them however are parasitic, namely *Cristispira* which is found in mussels, the genera *Borrelia* and *Treponema* in the blood in animals or man, and *Leptospira* in rodents and in man.

The book contains an enormous mass of information in the 561 pages of small print, and for each family, tribe and genera a key is given which makes it very helpful in identifying the particular bacteria concerned. As bacteriology is a comparatively young science every effort should be made to prevent confusion in the nomenclature such as has already occurred in some of the older sciences.

H. W. A.

THE HEALTH GAME.—By Dr. B. E. Washburn, M.A., M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1930. Pp. XI plus 202, with 20 illustrations. Price, 5s. net.

THIS is a "breezy" book describing the methods of propaganda used in Jamaica. It does not go too deeply into physiology as the basis of hygiene, it states in plain language the main facts of health and disease, and the methods likely to be successful in getting this information "across" to the every-day layman. It will be found particularly useful to health teachers and workers who have to teach hygiene to school children, boy scouts and adult health classes. A story of rural life in Jamaica runs through the book, telling how the conservatism and opposition of the older people are conquered by the tact and persuasion of the District and the School Medical Officers and by the fact that the latter had won over the family to their side. There is nothing new in the scientific matter of the book; but the propagandist will obtain new ideas in methods and a presentation. There is a very good description of a privy for houses in rural areas. A feature is the rhyming couplets attached to each chapter—these may be doggerel, but doggerel often sticks where stylish prose does not. Perhaps the truest couplet is this—"But if you'd teach the rules of health, you first should practise them yourself."

A. D. S.

HYGIENE FOR NURSES.—By John Guy, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.), F.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), and G. J. I. Linklater, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., M.R.C.P. (Edin.). E. & S. Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1930. Pp. 211. Illustrated. Price, Rs. 3-12. Available from Messrs. Butterworth & Co. (India) Ltd., Calcutta.

THE authors' aim is to provide a small handbook embodying all that nurses should know of hygiene. It is based on the syllabus issued by the General Nursing Council. They claim to emphasise the importance of the personal as opposed to the communal aspects of hygiene—the chapter on the nurse in her relation to public health might well have come as an introduction. Environmental hygiene is dealt with in Part I—condensed but adequately. The modern ideas