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## **Serum Diagnosis of Syphilis by Precipitation** — [Source link](#)

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hæmoptysis is not always a very grave symptom and that it often occurs where the healing process connected with fibrosis of the lungs has advanced to a large extent.

The remarkable thing is that bleeding from the lung into the bronchi does not occur more frequently in connection with cavity formation. This is accounted for by the fact that softening and caseation spread not so frequently from the centre to the periphery of the congested area, but from the periphery to the centre; in this way, before the whole mass separates from the healthy lung, a fibrous, limiting membrane has had time to form, thus preventing hæmorrhage taking place.

The number of remedies recommended, or at least mentioned, is good proof that none of them is very effective; prevention in the direction of avoiding strains and irregularities is more effective than any form of treatment.

The book is one well worth studying by those who take special interest in this disease, but those who have never taken the trouble to study tuberculosis, especially with regard to this pathology, may have difficulty in following some of the arguments.

**A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE TREATMENT OF INTERSTITIAL KERATITIS.**—By R. Lindsay Rea, M.D., F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. Pp. 32, 4 plates. Price, 2s. 6d. net.

THIS small book is a preliminary report showing how important the treatment of interstitial keratitis is when carried out according to modern methods, and how many of the later troubles associated with this disease such as choroiditis, nerve deafness and permanent synechia and opacities can be prevented by early treatment. This is well done and agrees strongly with the experience of the reviewer and will it is to be hoped prevent in future the ordinary remark in even modern text-books on ophthalmology, that antisyphilitic treatment has little effect on this dreadfully common disease. His remarks on the Wassermann reaction and modes of onset are brief and good. One can strongly recommend this book to all medical men in India interested in eye work, as this disease is commonly mistaken for trachoma and nebula due to ulcers and when treated, as it frequently is by irritant drugs, it can closely imitate those conditions, and its recognition and treatment especially in fairly early cases can prevent a great deal of the partial or complete blindness so commonly seen.

**A SYNOPSIS OF SURGERY.**—By E. W. Hey Groves, M.S., M.D., B.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Seventh Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1925. Pp. 671. Price, 17s. 6d. net.

THIS is the seventh edition of this well-known book, which is gradually assuming the proportions almost of a text book. The author claims to have revised the entire text, and especially the chapters on abdominal surgery, with the help of Mr. D. G. Tasker. Also a number of line drawings and diagrams have been added, which considerably enhance the value of the book from the students point of view.

Whatever criticisms may be levelled against a book of this type, there can be no doubt as to its popularity among students. The practitioner also uses it freely as a book of ready reference.

**ESSENTIALS OF IMMUNOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.**—By A. F. Coca, M.D. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1925. Pp. 194. English Agents: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox. Price, 17s. 6d. net.

THE leading works on immunology are for the most part large and suitable only for the specialist. The inclusion in recent years of instruction on immunology in post-graduate courses has necessitated the production of elementary text books on the subject. Professor Coca has written a useful little book of this type which includes everything the elementary student is likely to require. The first half is devoted to a brief account of the more important theoretical considerations, the remaining portion being a very useful presentation of the chief practical applications of immunology to medical

diagnosis and treatment. The book is well put together, and the various subjects are well described in clear language and we can confidently recommend it.

**SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF SYPHILIS BY PRECIPITATION.**—By R. L. Kahn, D.Sc. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Co., 1925. Pp. 237. Price, \$3.000.

DR. KAHN has performed a very valuable piece of research work on the subject of the serum diagnosis of syphilis by precipitation, which has culminated in the evolution of a new test now called the Kahn reaction. The test is on the lines of the Sachs Georgi reaction, the chief differences being that undiluted serum is used, rapid shaking with the antigen is employed, and the results are read off more quickly than by other methods. As is now well known the results correspond broadly, though not exactly, with those obtained by the Wassermann test. Where facilities for the latter are not available it has undoubtedly a great field of usefulness. Dr. Kahn has embodied his results in this extremely interesting book which is written in a clear and convincing manner and is altogether excellent. It should be in the hands of every specialist on the subject.

**ROENTGEN DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY.**—By A. C. Christie, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.P. London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1924. Pp. 320, with 144 illustrations. Obtainable from Messrs. Butterworth & Co. (India), Ltd. Post Box, 251, Calcutta. Price, 25s.

THIS book is a revised and enlarged copy of the author's Manual of X-Ray Technique. It has been designed as a practical guide in x-ray diagnosis and therapy for the student and practitioner.

The general style of the book, printing, and reproduction of skiagrams is excellent. The author avoids controversy and is somewhat dogmatic in his statements. Many experts in x-ray work will not agree with all he says. The book is in fact a record of the author's personal outlook on roentgenology. This, however, does not detract from its merits. There are many conclusions which will interest not only the student and practitioner but the expert as well; for instance, his defence of the Coolidge tube for roentgenography and roentgenoscopy, or his disavowal of the various chemical, photographic, and other direct methods for measuring dosage, and the adoption of the indirect method based on voltage, milli-ampere, distance and filtration.

In conclusion, we are of opinion that this book should be in the hands of every practitioner as it comprises in a small space all the essential facts in the practice of roentgenology.

**THE RADIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE MALE URETHRA.**—By G. L. S. Kohnstam, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), and E. H. P. Cave, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1925. Pp. XVI plus 116, with 64 figs. in the text. Price, 15s. net.

IN this interesting monograph the urethra is the main subject, and the shape and relations of the base of the bladder are shewn to be of considerable importance in the diagnosis of prostatic disease.

The work is intended as a guide to the methods of practice and interpretation of urethrography. The technique is fully explained. "Lipiodol" is the fluid used for injection in preference to bismuth, bromides and iodides. It is said to give rise to no irritation or discomfort. The interpretation of negatives is fully gone into and a useful chapter on normal urethrograms is given. This is followed by a section on pathological conditions.

An important point is brought out in this work, viz., when fluid is injected from the external meatus the seminal vesicles become filled. This is a point of "undoubted scientific and practical value". It demonstrates clearly the danger of applying high pressure in urethral irrigation and suggests a method of treating vesiculitis.

The work is one which should be in the hands of every radiologist and surgeon. Just as radiography has changed our views as to the anatomy of the stomach,