

The Human Eye.—By Dr. K. S. MALKANI.

DR. MALKANI OF Hyderabad, Sind, has written a practical little booklet on the Human Eye. It is intended for the general reader. It is clearly written and the advice given sound. We are glad to see that the intelligent author lends no support to the wild views of those who pretend that a senile cataract can be removed without operation.

We can recommend the little book to those for whom it is intended. Price Eight Annas.

Urgent Surgery—By FELIX LEJARS, Professor, Agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris. Translated from the sixth French Edition by William S. Dickie, F.R.C.S., Surgeon, North Riding Infirmary, Middlesbrough. Two volumes. Vol. I. Price 25s. net. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. London: Simkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent Co., Ltd.

THE fact that this book has run through six editions in ten years speaks for itself; it has also been translated into German, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Russian and Japanese, so may fairly claim to be cosmopolitan. We may also at once say that its perusal has given us great pleasure, not alone for the masterly way in which the subject has been handled, but also from its literary excellence.

This volume deals with the urgent surgery of the head, neck and trunk and covers the subject completely. The aim of the author has been to place before the reader in a practical manner the indications for and the technical details of the principal urgent operations and in this he has admirably succeeded. Of course, some of the procedures described demand a high degree of surgical skill, but the author is careful to say that "it is certainly not intended that they should all be attempted by anyone and in any surroundings." However, a knowledge of the indications for these urgent operations cannot fail to be helpful either to the young practitioner or to the man who is not in close touch with surgical practice.

The standard of excellence is so high that it is difficult to select any section for special mention; perhaps that on the abdomen is the best; the author is a strong advocate of the rule "when in doubt operate;" with this we think the vast majority of surgeons agree. As regards appendicitis, the practice is "every case of acute appendicitis, ought to be operated on; the date alone of the operation may vary; in a certain number of cases it must be performed during the attack, but as often as possible during a quiescent stage."

There is practically little difference between the technique described and the usual English practice; judging mainly from the illustrations Reverdin's needle of varying type is preferred for all kinds of work including intestinal suture. For exploration of the kidney an incision from the middle of the 12th rib obliquely

downwards to about the middle of the iliac crest is favoured. The results obtained by the electrical enema in some of the chronic obstructions and in paralytic ileus are highly spoken of.

The illustrations are excellent; the selection of typical cases interspersed throughout the text is a particularly happy one. The book will be of great value to many classes of practitioners and more particularly to Assistant Surgeons, either when they are House Surgeons or in independent charge of a dispensary; the indications for and the technical details of the operations being clearly laid down; any conflicting lines of treatment which would otherwise confuse the issue being omitted.

A Text-book of Medical Treatment (arranged alphabetically).—By W. CALWELL, M.A., M.D., Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. Edward Arnold, London, 1910.

THE author of this new volume on medical treatment has not rushed hastily into print. The work is the offspring of twenty years' experience in teaching the principles as well as the application of modern therapeutical knowledge. His notes on the medical treatment of the cases occurring in the out-and-in-departments of a large hospital during these years have been amplified, systematised, corrected and brought up to date.

The result is the publication of a volume of very great importance and of great merit.

This work will prove to be exceedingly useful to the student and to the practitioner. It is founded on practical experience and many most valuable hints will be obtained from a perusal of the text.

As already stated, the subject-matter is dealt with alphabetically which is of great convenience in searching for information and enlightenment on any disease. Besides this, there is a very good index which will be found of great service to the busy practitioner.

The volume is richly endowed with a wealth of prescriptions which have been found serviceable.

A special word of praise is due to the author of the article on vaccine therapy; it is one of the clearest accounts we have so far read. The volume is handsomely produced and the paper and printing all that could be desired.

A Text-book of Physiology for Medical Students and Physicians.—By W. H. HOWELL, Ph.D., M.D., LL.D., Professor of Physiology, John Hopkin's University, Baltimore. Third Edition, thoroughly Revised. Messrs. W. B. Saunders Co., 1909.

It is only four years since Howell's Physiology made its appearance, and yet in that period three new editions and five reprints have been called for. Stronger evidence of the high merits and popularity of the volume could not well be demanded. In reviewing the first edition

we spoke of this physiology in the highest terms and anticipated for it a striking success. We have nothing but praise for this third edition which is well up to date, and gives a large amount of new material. We wish the volume continued success. It is without doubt one of the very best works on the subject at present on the market. We notice that the author includes a review of the recent work on metabolism and on the evidence afforded by natives of Bengal. An error in his reference has crept in when he assigns to McCabe the observations carried out in this country by Captain D. McCay, I.M.S.

The new Third Appendix to Squire's Pocket Companion.

THIS little book marks the third of a series of Appendices to Squire's Pocket Companion, and also brings up-to-date the recently published 18th Edition of the larger Squire's Companion. These Appendices have now become a fixed feature of Squire's literary productions, and a regular demand has been established for them from all parts of the world.

The First Appendix was issued in 1905, and the second in 1906; the third bears the date of the current year. They are published primarily in the interests of the medical profession to whom they are supplied gratis on application. As the matter which they contain is supplementary also to the two books named above, they are also sent gratis on application to all who have purchased either the one book or the other.

The Third Appendix is a brief but concise review of the progress of Therapeutics and Pharmacy from 1908 to 1910. The complete and exhaustive review from 1899 to 1908 is to be found in the 18th Edition of Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopœia (published by J. and A. Churchill, price 14/- net.).

The monographs on Arsacetin, p. 6; Atoxyl, p. 9; Calcium Lactate, p. 12; Mercury Atoxylate, p. 33; Novocaine, p. 34; Paraphenylenediamine, p. 36. Amongst the abstracts of latest pharmaceutical literature are to be found the following:—Syrupus Pruni Virginianæ, p. 38; Quinine Sulphate, p. 40, this article containing references to the papers read before the Seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry on the Standards for the purity of Quinine Compounds, and to an important paper communicated to an evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society at the close of last year.

Amongst items of special interest from the therapeutical point of view may be noted the article on Scopolamine-Morphine anæsthesia, p. 46 *et seq.*; Sodium Acid Phosphate, p. 49.

The article on Standardisation on p. 54, records the transactions of the Pharmaceutical Section of the Seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry, and gives a clear idea of

the present position of Chemical Standardisation.

The article on Stovaine, p. 58, embraces Dr. Jonnesco's recent improvement in the methods for producing general spinal anæsthesia.

On the last page of the Appendix is a notice of the forthcoming new Edition of Squire's Comparison of the Pharmacopœias of Thirty of the London Hospitals, and a note on the new Edition of this book will also be found in Section B., p. 96. The 18th Edition of Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopœia is referred to on pp. 76, 77 and 78.

The Pocket Clinical Guide.—By JAMES BURNET, M.D. Edinburgh: John Currie, 1910.

THE object of this little guide is to aid students and practitioners in carrying out the simple processes employed in every-day clinical work. No attempt has been made to cover the whole field of laboratory work, but the little book measuring only 4×3 inches and 141 pages contains a considerable amount of information on the urine, the blood, the sputum, the stomach contents, and the fæces. It is sound and reliable.

Hints on Prescription Writing.—By JAMES BURNET, M.D. Edinburgh: John Currie, 1910.

THIS is the second and enlarged edition of a useful little paper backed pamphlet on a subject too much neglected by present day practitioners. It gives valuable hints on writing prescriptions both for examinations and in practice. It gives enough Latin Grammar to enable the practitioner not to make blunders in this elementary matter. There is a section on incompatibility on dosage, etc.

It should prove most useful to any senior student going in for his examination in *Materia Medica*.

MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL (MEDICAL SECTION).

THE meeting was held on April 13th with Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford in the Chair. A Bengali child, aged 5, suffering from extreme cyanosis without any dyspnoea, under the care of Lieutenant-Colonel Calvert, was shown for him by Major L. Rogers as due to congenital heart disease, believed to be of the nature of an extensive deficiency of the inter-auricular septum, as there was an absence of all cardiac murmurs, such as occur in pulmonary unstenosis and deficient ventricular septum.

Major C. R. Stevens showed the following cases:—

1. A child in whom a large hydronephrosis had been removed by abdominal section with a satisfactory result.