

items of medical interest are that a criminal shall be held responsible for his actions even when in a state of diminished consciousness caused by drunkenness, drunkenness being no longer regarded as an extenuating circumstance. Drunkards shall be subjected to special measures, such as compulsory detention in an asylum, prohibition to obtain intoxicating liquor, loss of civil and voting rights. Other items of interest deal with homosexuality which shall continue to be a criminal offence for men but not for women. Professional secrecy shall not be binding when it conflicts with the public interest as, for instance, in the case of infectious and venereal diseases. Finally the Congress discussed the question of quackery and unqualified practice and voted for its absolute suppression and for an alteration of the law to this end.

Corrigendum.

On page 6 of the *Indian Medical Year*, 1925, issued as a supplement to last month's issue, a paper on Stibosan in private practice is attributed to K. N. Chatterjee. In place of "K. N. Chatterjee" please read S. K. Das: *vide I.M.G.*, Sept. 1925, p. 425. We very much regret the mistake.—EDITOR, *I.M.G.*

Reviews.

THE NEMATODE PARASITES OF VERTEBRATES.—

By Warrington Yorke, M.D., and P. A. Maplestone, M.D., D.S.O., with a foreword by C. W. Stiles, M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1926. Pp. 536, with 307 illustrations. Price, 36s. net.

THE study of parasitic nematodes has proceeded at an extremely rapid rate in recent years, and it has become increasingly difficult for investigators, particularly those who are interested in systematic phases of the subject (and every parasitologist is and must be to a greater or less extent), to keep abreast of the current literature. What constituted single genera fifty years ago, with no more species than one could count on his fingers, may now be split into as many genera as there were formerly species, and the number of described species has increased many fold. As Dr. Stiles points out in his foreword, the present tendency is to seek knowledge for the sake of the good it will do rather than for the sake of knowledge itself, and it is because of this changed viewpoint that nematology has so greatly expanded. Except in a few of the largest library centres of the world, only a fraction of the literature is ever available, and the worker who is far removed from these centres is greatly restricted in his field and hopelessly handicapped in much research which he might otherwise profitably pursue.

Yorke and Maplestone's book is actually a boiled-down library and museum combined, and makes possible an enormous amount of work in the far corners of the world which otherwise could not have been attempted, and it will be the means of saving countless hours of tedious work for every investigator who interests himself in any phase of the study of nematodes which involves determination of genera. The book makes it possible for anyone with a knowledge of nematode morphology to place correctly any species of nematode which he may come upon in its proper genus, if it belong to any genus described up to the middle of 1925.

The book contains clear and carefully worked out keys to all the superfamilies, families, and genera of parasitic nematodes, the best available description of the genera, the name and synonyms of the type species, and a list of such species as can, with a reasonable degree of certainty, be ascribed to each genus. Of inestimable value are the drawings which illustrate the essential characteristics of each genus. In most cases these are drawings of the type species, but in a few instances the authors have been compelled to use other species for this purpose. A very large number of the illustrations are original, since good illustrations were not formerly in existence; the preparation of these must

have involved a very great amount of work. At the end of the book is a list of 684 references which include the literature which the writers have found of most value for their work, and which will likewise be of most value to the users of the book. The references which deal with any particular genus are listed at the conclusion of the section dealing with that genus.

Works of this kind, on account of the enormous amount of work involved, are usually several years old by the time they appear in print, but by what must have been an almost superhuman effort, the present volume is right up to date and includes, not only in its references but also in its text, work which was published not more than a few months prior to the publication of the book.

To sum up, one could do better than quote the last paragraph of Dr. Stiles' foreword, addressed to the "unborn helminthologist": "This work of Yorke and Maplestone was written in order to save your time and mine and to make you more efficient in your professional life. It has cost them many hours and days of patient labour. It has not been prepared in order to gain a reputation. It is a labour of love on their part in order to help you. See that you do for the generation which follows you, what Yorke and Maplestone have done for you."

A. C. C.

OPERATIVE CYSTOSCOPY.—By E. Canny Ryall, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to All Saints Hospital. London: Henry Kimpton, 1925. Pp. xv plus 47, with 115 plates containing 670 original illustrations, of which 528 are coloured. Price, 70s. net.

OPERATIVE cystoscopy was until recently one of the secret arts and hidden mysteries practised only by a few adepts. Its technique was surrounded by difficulties, which could be conquered only by years of work and with the help of abundance of clinical material, such as was obtainable only in the great urological clinics. Little could be learnt by watching such operations, the surgeon with his eye glued to the eye-piece of the cystoscope manipulated his instruments slowly and carefully in the depths of the bladder, each step of the operation being usually followed by sharp hæmorrhage, which necessitated prolonged use of the irrigator before work could be resumed. The intervals of clear vision were much too precious to be wasted in demonstrating what was going on to the spectators. Nowadays all this is changed. The majority of the modern intravesical operative procedures are done by means of the diathermy electrode under local anæsthesia. The work is rapid and clean and there is little hæmorrhage at the time, although the separation of the sloughs some days later may be accompanied by sharp secondary hæmorrhage. Still it is the operator alone who sees what is happening whilst the current is passing, the onlooker must be content with brief peeps during pauses in the operation, and, although these operations are now performed at most general hospitals, only those who are on the staff of a special department as surgeons or as clinical assistants can hope to obtain sufficient practice to acquire a real mastery of the technique. For those who have not this advantage, the work under review will be invaluable. There are several good cystoscopic atlases in French and German and some English translations, but we know of nothing like this work. It contains 115 plates, each consisting of 6 cystoscopic views, perfectly executed in colours. The idea is to show the lesion before treatment and then to illustrate the stages of treatment. Thus we see a tumour of the bladder, then the electrode approaching it, then the appearance of the tumour during and after fulguration, then its appearance some days later and so on to the end of the treatment. One case of cyst at the neck of the bladder is illustrated by no less than 60 cystoscopic views, drawn during a course of treatment which lasted nearly a year and illustrating the whole process from start to finish. The value of such plates to the learner is beyond question, they are the best possible substitute for the actual personal experience which can be obtained by only a favoured few.