

Reviews.

THE NAPOLEONIC CAMPAIGN OF 1805. By Captain F. W. O. Maycock, D.S.O., The Suffolk Regiment. Gale and Polden, 1912. Pp. ix. and 106. Price 3s. 6d.

This little book gives a short and extremely clear account of Napoleon's campaign against the Allies in 1805, culminating in the decisive battle of Austerlitz, which may be taken to constitute the answer returned by a predominating land power to the blow of the predominating sea power, given by Nelson at Trafalgar. The account is well written, and gives a clear view of the campaign as a whole to any officer wishing to study the details of any isolated incident. It is well illustrated by maps and plans, and can be confidently recommended to any medical officer desiring to acquire a knowledge of the conduct of war on the grand scale.

C. H. M.

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE TEAT AND THE CAPILLARY GLASS TUBE. By Sir A. E. Wright, M.D., F.R.S. Constable and Co., 1912. Pp. xvi. and 208. Price 10s. 6d.

Those of us whose privilege it was to study under Wright at Netley are able to appreciate the debt under which lie all workers in humoral pathology to the inventor of the teat and the capillary glass tube. There must be many, however, who profit daily by these appliances without the least feeling of gratitude to anyone in particular, and to these we commend the little volume now under review. Given this book, a supply of glass tubing, teats, plasticene, and a blow-pipe flame, the limits of successful endeavour would seem to be indefinitely extended.

The author gives many ingenious applications of his technique, but like all Wright's work, the book not only teaches but inspires, and the reader is constrained to become an inventor in his turn.

The concise and pithy explanations are supplemented by capital teat-figures and plates. The book, in fact, brings vaccine therapy and blood examination within the scope of any medical man of average ability and industry, and will probably create as many immunizers as Cheyne and Burghardt's volumes created surgeons. We can only hope that they may all possess the high standards of morality laid down as requisite on p. 154, and that this introspection and self-examination (p. 158) may be safeguards to a public that is only too ready to take vaccine three times a day.

The portion of the book most calculated to evoke criticism is that dealing with the opsonic index. No serious worker with a personal familiarity with the subject can any longer doubt either the existence or importance of the opsonins as factors in immunity. The questions still at issue are whether Wright's method of calculating the opsonic index gives significant results, and whether, this being granted, it is necessary to supplement clinical observation by these laborious investigations in vaccine therapy. While convinced of the value of the test, we are constrained to admit that it is subject to many fallacies, and these not

only of the mathematical kind. Amongst the biological difficulties are the rapid digestion of many organisms after phagocytosis, and the quantitative limits imposed on the activity of a phagocytic mixture by the thinning of the bacterial emulsion necessary to ensure countable units. On p. 130 it is suggested that the tubercle bacillus is "foreign to the normal organism." If, as the context would seem to imply, the word "normal" here means "free from clinical signs of disease," we are obliged to recall the work of Nägeli and Burghardt and the tuberculin results of von Pirquet, which show that 80 or 90 per cent of apparently healthy European adults harbour latent or inactive tubercular foci. These observations have an important bearing on the question of "controls" in the tubercle opsonic index. The descriptions of the methods of calculating the coagulation "time," the calcium and magnesium salts in blood, and the saline content of urines, are excellent; there is also a useful summary of the principles underlying the Bordet-Gengou and Wassermann reactions, and the chapters on the preparation and standardization of vaccines leave nothing to be desired. We offer our hearty congratulations to the author on a book that is indispensable to every worker in the field of humoral pathology. S. L. C.

WHAT TO DO IN CASES OF POISONING. By W. Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P. Eleventh Edition. London: H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, W.C. Pp. 283. Royal 32mo. Price 3s.

This most useful book is now in its eleventh edition. It has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date, and many new poisons (including veronal) have been added. The arrangement of the subject-matter is highly practical. The Introduction deals with the Classification of Poisons, the Diagnosis of Cases of Poisoning, a most useful summary of the constituents of popular patent preparations, and concludes with a useful résumé of the means, both instrumental and antidotal, of treatment. The mode in which specimens should be preserved for examination, and the origin and nature of ptomaines are pointed out in a simple and practical manner.

The poisons themselves are arranged in alphabetical order, and grouped under two headings, viz., Acute Poisoning and Chronic Poisoning. The "acute" group is considered under the headings of (1) "How Taken," (2) "Symptoms," (3) "Fatal Dose," and (4) "Treatment." These are all given in a most concise and practical fashion, and the information is stated in such a way as to be of the greatest use in an emergency, where time is of value.

The section dealing with chronic poisoning differs necessarily from that of acute poisoning, as the symptoms presented and the treatment required are on somewhat different lines.

Amongst others, the results of the toxic action of cocaine, morphia, absinthe, arsenic, and lead as chronic poisons are described, and much valuable information is given bearing on treatment.

The publication itself is well printed, and though consisting of 283 pages is of small size, and can be readily slipped into the pocket. There is no doubt the book will be found a most useful one by medical officers. Owing to the alphabetical arrangement of the volume, and the provision of an index, the book lends itself to rapid reference in case of any emergency from poisoning. F. M. M.

THE REVIEW OF BACTERIOLOGY. By A. G. R. Foulerton, F.R.C.S., and C. Baker, M.A., M.D. Science Review, Ltd., London. Price 10s. 6d. per annum.

This publication purports to be "an epitome of recent literature of the parasitology and pathology of infective diseases and of laboratory methods," and if subsequent numbers fulfil the high promise of the first one this object will certainly be attained. Every British worker in the field of bacteriology must long have felt the need for an English review on lines similar to the *Bulletin de l'Institut Pasteur*, and this want would now appear to be supplied. A large number of articles on subjects of immediate interest are summarized in a manner that affords a very fair idea of their contents, thus enabling the reader to keep abreast of work done in many directions without taxing too severely the time at his disposal for the more minute study of the literature of his own particular subject.

The compiling of such a review involves an immense amount of reading, translation, and selection, and the editors and their assistants deserve the gratitude of everyone who wishes to keep his knowledge up to date and finds his own language the best vehicle for scientific information. We earnestly hope that the publication will receive the support that it so well deserves.

S. L. C.

SPRUE: ITS DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By Charles Begg. Bristol: John Wright and Son. 1912. Pp. vi. and 124. Price 6s. net.

This is a book on the diagnosis and treatment of sprue by one who has had a large experience of the disease, and who appears to have been more than usually successful in the treatment of it. As is well known, Dr. Begg is an ardent advocate of the use of old yellow santonin in sprue, and it is to this that he attributes the results which he obtains. In his view sprue is due to a microbic infection of the intestine, which is very probable, though so far our knowledge as to the causation of sprue is *nil* and any ideas about it are pure surmise. He explains the action of santonin as being antiseptic; this may be so, though we cannot recall any experiments which show that the microbic content of the fæces is reduced after the exhibition of santonin. Many other observers have tried santonin in sprue and the majority have been disappointed; it may be that it was not old enough or not yellow enough, or we might be tempted to look for some other element in Dr. Begg's treatment which is necessary. This, however, seems to be excluded. When we read of a patient eating blackberry and apple pudding (with the permission of her doctor) after one week's course of santonin, we realize that he puts little faith in diet cures, though he uses diet as an adjuvant whenever called for. Those of us who have not had good results after the use of santonin in sprue will be encouraged to try it again after the perusal of this book, taking care, however, that the drug is very old and very yellow. For the rest the author gives many useful hints on the management of cases of this most troublesome complaint.

W. S. H.

POST-MORTEMS AND MORBID ANATOMY. By Theodore Shennan, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin. London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1912. Pp. xv and 496. Price 18s.

This work should prove of great value to all to whom it may fall to conduct autopsies, either as a routine practice or as an occasional

necessity. The author has designed it for the assistance of students, practitioners, and teachers of pathology, and also hopes that it may be of value to the practising pathologist and the investigator of pathological problems. It says much for the clear and systematic manner in which he has dealt with the subject that this widespread aim should have been so well fulfilled, for, while the student will find in the book an excellent guide to a subject with which he is expected to be familiar at his examinations, there are few chapters which may not be consulted with profit by the trained pathologist and the investigator. After very practical accounts of the best method of making a systematic autopsy and of the external examination of a body, the methods for displaying and examining the various cavities, organs, &c., are thoroughly dealt with, and a careful account is given of the different pathological conditions which may be encountered therein. These are profusely illustrated by photographic reproductions of naked-eye specimens, mainly from the author's own collection, or from the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and for the most part they are excellent illustrations of the alterations described in the text, and would be most helpful in actual practice. It is naturally impossible in a book of moderate price to include many coloured plates, but the few which are added are of so high a quality that one regrets their limited number, for however good a half-tone reproduction may be it is at best a poor substitute for a well-executed plate in the natural colours. The author expressly states that his account is confined to the naked-eye appearances, but one may be permitted to regret that he did not take the opportunity of placing alongside of his descriptions accounts and figures of the morbid histological changes in the tissues in the conditions with which he deals. This would have added considerably to the size of the book, and, without doubt, to the labour and expense involved in its production, but in our opinion such a co-ordination would have added greatly to its value, and would have been more in accordance with modern tendencies, and with the needs of both students and pathologists. The book is well printed and furnished with an excellent index and bibliography, while the appendix, dealing with methods of preserving specimens and furnishing comparative tables of measurements, &c., is of real practical value.

W. B. L.

THE CAUSE OF CANCER. By J. Jackson Clarke. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Pp. xi. and 110. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This is a monograph upholding the view that cancer is of parasitic origin. It is a polemical pamphlet of a kind now happily rare. Mr. Clarke seems to attribute bias to those of his critics who do not agree with him in his interpretation of his specimens. Scientific questions are not settled in this way; if observations bear the face of truth this fact will be recognized sooner or later, and a man who produces a theory which does not meet with acceptance at first must needs seek further and find more evidence, until he has either convinced himself that he is wrong or has convinced his critics that he is right. To get cross about it does not help matters in the least.

W. S. H.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HENRY PHIPPS INSTITUTE.

The greater part of this valuable Report deals with statistical matter accumulated, in most instances, over a period of seven years, and referring to the large numbers of cases of tuberculosis treated at the Institute. The tables furnish important information on many aspects of the disease, perhaps the most striking being those revealing the higher incidence amongst those taking alcohol, or indulging in tobacco, than in persons avoiding such luxuries. In some respects the statistics are, or appear, rather vague; for instance, where a high proportion of patients is shown to belong to the Celtic (27.7 per cent), the Jewish (20.3 per cent), and the Teutonic (19.8 per cent) races, the reader wonders whether the words Celtic and Teutonic are merely geographical or strictly anthropological expressions. The point is of importance, as the one reading would hint at an environmental, the other at an inborn or racial tendency to tuberculosis. We notice under "Nativity" a high admission-rate among people of Irish nationality, but Ireland is inhabited by a population of mixed race, and although there is a strong Celtic element, especially in the south and west, it would, we think, be rash to claim a racial susceptibility for the Celt on the ground of a high case-incidence amongst Irish immigrants. Again, we are often at a loss to grasp the actual significance of the figures in some of the tables. For instance, under "Occupation" we find that 1,334 houseworkers were admitted for tubercular disease during seven years, while only 19 hucksters came under treatment in that period; but without an idea as to the relative proportions of houseworkers and hucksters in the community we are still at a loss to know which trade is the more liable to the disease. The Report contains several papers of high interest, such as that on "The Relation of Intestinal Absorption to Pulmonary Anthracosis," by C. M. Montgomery, in which the author records his failure to find pigment granules in the lungs after feeds of lamp-black and "Prussian blue" made up in cakes to avoid inhalation of particles during ingestion of food. Dr. Joseph McFarland contributes a paper recording attempts to discover tubercle bacilli in the blood of fifty-six cases, the method of Rosenberger being employed. The results were negative in all the genuine tubercular cases except two. Acid-fast bacilli were, however, found in the blood of two tubercular cases, in one case of pneumonia, and in two cases of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis. This finding aroused suspicion, and, in view of the work of Brem on this subject, the distilled water was carefully examined, albumin being used to fix the preparations, with the result that it was found to contain numerous acid-fast bacilli. The author concludes that tubercle bacilli do not constantly circulate in the blood of tuberculous individuals.

S. L. C.