

Reviews.

THE EXAMINATION OF WATER AND WATER SUPPLIES. By J. C. Thresh. Second Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill, 1913. Pp. xx and 644. Price 18s.

The second edition of this well-known book will be welcomed by all who have been familiar with the first edition, more especially as the high standard of excellence of the former edition has been well maintained. The size of the volume has been increased by nearly 200 pages, due to the amplification and rewriting of several sections and the addition of two entirely new chapters. The two new chapters deal with the examination of water for special purposes, and the examination of water by electrical methods.

The first part of the book deals as before with the examination of the sources from which water supplies are obtained, and is fully illustrated by examples from the author's unrivalled personal experience in such matters. Much emphasis is rightly laid on the necessity for a thorough personal inspection of the source of any water supply; the place which the bacteriological and chemical analyses take in the routine examination of a water supply is clearly shown.

Part II deals with the objects of analyses and the interpretation of the results of the physical, chemical, microscopical and bacterioscopic examinations of waters. The chapter on the interpretation of results of the bacterioscopic examination has been largely re-written, and here we looked for the fruits of the author's extended experience and for a review of the latest work on the subject. We were, however, a little disappointed that the views of only one observer are taken into consideration. It is true that observer is Dr. Houston, and the results of his experience on "*Bacillus coli* standards" are given verbatim, but we would have liked to see some mention made of the work of MacConkey and of the more recent work of Clemesha on the significance of the individual members of the lactose and glucose fermenting groups of organisms. We are given to understand that Houston's "agin" bacilli, i.e., any bacillus which ferments lactose and forms indol from peptone water, is an excretal *B. coli* and indicates faecal pollution. This classification may be sufficient for the Metropolitan water supply, but many would hesitate to apply it to all waters. The author himself doubts the correctness of this statement, for he says, "I should not regard the sagin and agin bacilli as belonging to the colon group."

Part III deals with analytical processes and methods of examinations, and at the end of the book are thirty-six excellent plates illustrating the microscopical appearance of various water deposits. An appendix gives the preparation of various reagents and media.

To the sanitary officer this book will be invaluable as a guide to the inspection of water supplies, and it is so brim full of Dr. Thresh's personal experiences that it makes most interesting reading.

H. B. F.

“TUBERCULIN IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.” By Drs. Bandelier and Roepke. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1913. Pp. xi and 294. Second English Edition, translated from the Seventh German Edition by W. B. Christophers.

The first English Edition of this work was fully reviewed in the *JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS* of June, 1909, but since that date the book has been completely revised, and is now issued in an enlarged form. Several alterations and improvements have been made in the subject matter.

The theory of tuberculin administration has now been collected into one section and placed at the commencement of the book, an improvement on the plan adopted in the former edition. Part II, dealing with the specific diagnosis of tuberculosis, is still divided into general and special sections, but in the former, much additional matter and a new coloured plate have been added, and in the latter a chapter on the diagnosis of tuberculosis of the digestive organs has been included. There are also considerable additions in the important section dealing with the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The authors still consider that immunization in pulmonary tuberculosis is best obtained by the administration of increasing doses, and this is the method they adopt in practice, although excellent results have been obtained with the repeated small dose method by physicians in this country.

This edition is printed in better type and the search for any particular point is facilitated by the insertion of side references. The book gives a clear and readable account of the present-day diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis by means of tuberculin, the value of which is necessarily enhanced by the large experience of the authors.

O. L. R.

ACUTE ABDOMINAL DISEASES. By Joseph E. Adams, F.R.C.S., and Maurice A. Cassidy, F.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1913. Pp. 571, 28 illustrations. Price 12s. 6d. net.

In this book the authors have endeavoured to set forth the results of their experiences, and their object has been to discuss, compare, and contrast all the various acute diseases and injuries to which the abdomen and its contents are liable, treating these conditions from the point of view of both physician and surgeon. They have also aimed at making the account of each separate disease complete in itself. The result of their labours is the production of a most useful and instructive work, which may be read by student and practitioner with profit and pleasure. The chapter on intestinal obstruction has been particularly well written and the condition known as appendicitis has received its full recognition.

When writing of liver abscess the authors do not favour exploration as an aid to diagnosis. This is excellent in theory, but with a larger experience of liver abscesses they would probably find it necessary to modify their views of this procedure.

The concluding chapter contains excellent notes on the diseases which may simulate acute abdominal lesions. The work should have a wide sphere of usefulness.

J. W. H. H.

CLINICAL LABORATORY METHODS. By Roger Sylveston Morris, A.B., M.D. D. Appleton and Company, New York and London, 1913. 8vo. Pp. 343, 46 illustrations, 2 coloured plates. Price not stated.

The present volume is not a text-book of clinical pathology, but is intended to serve as a manual of laboratory technique and morphology for students and practitioners, and we think it fulfils its purpose. The book is divided into sections dealing respectively with the urine, gastric juice, fæces, sputum, and blood, and has a short section on puncture fluids.

All the ordinary tests or procedures likely to be of service to practitioners are clearly and accurately described, but we notice that in some cases the procedures recommended are somewhat complicated and would require apparatus not usually found in the ordinary clinical laboratory. The work is well illustrated and printed in good clear type. It can be recommended as a trustworthy guide to clinical laboratory work.

O. L. R.

ELEMENTARY BANDAGING AND SURGICAL DRESSING. By W. H. Clayton-Greene. Bristol: J. Wright and Sons, 1913, 13th Edition, pp. viii, and 230. Price 2s. net.

This up-to-date little book is well written and profusely illustrated.

Section I contains all there is to know about splints, and the chapters on bandaging explain the different methods fully and clearly.

Section II is full of sound information, and the only fault we have to find is that in the chapter on the treatment of burns and scalds, too much prominence is given to the use of oily applications and too little to the use of picric acid.

Section III is particularly good, especially the chapter on the treatment of cases of poisoning, and if this treatment were always carried out as advocated many lives would be saved. Altogether the book is an excellent one, and should be read by every student and surgeon.

J. W. H. H.

Current Literature.

Fumigation of Vessels for the Destruction of Rats (S. B. Grubbs and B. E. Holsendorf, United States, Public Health Reports, vol. xxviii).—The authors of this paper consider the fumes of burning sulphur to be the most convenient and efficient fumigant. They state that "all parts of the vessel should be sulphured at the same time, including all compartments above deck from which the presence of rats cannot be absolutely excluded, as well as the holds; that the most careful preparation of a vessel is necessary; and that the fumigation of the holds alone, especially if containing freight, is of little value, if not actually harmful, as it may drive rats to the decks, whence they may more easily go ashore." They consider that fumigation of the holds of vessels containing cargo will rarely destroy all the rats in that part of the ship, and that if this procedure is resorted to it should be considered as a fumigation of the cargo only, and the vessel when empty should be again fumigated, all the compartments being fumigated simultaneously with liberal quantities of