

penny-in-the-slot system, there would be no need for studying these morbid conditions. Frequently it is difficult to make even trained nurses see what is really required. Dr. Bulkley's book will certainly help many practitioners to carry out treatment in an adequate manner, and therefore with better results. But for any one to think that dermatological knowledge can be acquired by listening to a lecture now and then and making a note of many formulæ merely shows a simplicity that is singularly out of place in a practitioner of medicine. Why not go back to amulets, charms, and talismans? Though the author writes specially about local treatment, on this occasion he does not fail to call attention to general treatment adapted for the needs of each individual case. Altogether the book is one to be read, and can be recommended.

There is apparently no end to short cuts to knowledge of diseases of the skin.⁵ One of the latest is from the pen of Dr. FELIX PINKUS, who reviews the various cutaneous and venereal ills in very rapid manner. The book belongs to a *Leitfäden* series—vade-mecums, sign-posts, or paths which but too often degenerate into mere trails or even snail tracks, leading no-whither in particular. In this age of pap or spoon feeding such volumes are falling as thickly as leaves in Vallombrosa—leaves that not only rustle but give forth sounds in many languages, an aerial Babel or babble. The book is what is considered an introduction, and as such may serve—must serve—some one, otherwise publishers would not issue so much printed matter. The illustrations are, in the majority of cases, poor. A correspondent once wrote to Mark Twain asking him if fish were good for the brain, and got the following reply, "Yes, begin with a whale." Of a very different class is another book on our list. In issuing an Epitomized Index to the twenty-one volumes of the *British Journal of Dermatology*,⁶ Dr. WINKELRIED WILLIAMS has rendered a great service to writers on dermatological subjects. The value of an ordinary index is great, but the author has gone further, for he has epitomized the various papers of the periodical under notice—a labour of love indeed. That the Germans have not a complete monopoly of patient workers in arid fields this index is a proof. The book can be strongly recommended to workers in the domain of dermatology. There are few misprints considering the nature of the book: *Adiposis delerosa* for *Adiposis dolorosa*; *Cutaneous dystrophy* for *Cutaneous dystrophy*, etc. It was a good idea to interleave with blank pages for the convenience of those with sufficient time wishing to continue the index.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE SKIN AND MUCOSA.

THE seventeenth fasciculus of the *Traité d'Hygiène*, originally started by the late Professor Brouardel and Dr. E. Mosny, but which is now published under the direction of Professor CHANTEMESSE and Dr. E. MOSNY, is devoted to the etiology and prophylaxis of diseases transmitted via the skin and official mucous membranes.⁷ The thick volume of 720 pages is made up of a series of monographs by experts, and it may be stated at once that the authors have done their work exceedingly well. The various diseases have been exhaustively dealt with from the points of view of etiology and prophylaxis in an admirably clear manner. It would be impossible, in the space allotted, to do justice to the various sections, which embrace the microbial diseases, including those transmitted to man from animals, and the numerous morbid conditions of the skin arising from animal and vegetable parasites (Achalme).

Malaria is most thoroughly dealt with in a masterly way by Edouard and Etienne Sergent, who also contribute the chapter on blackwater fever, Marchoux writes on yellow

⁵ *Hart-und Geschlechts-Krankheiten*. Von Dr. Felix Pinkus. Leipzig: Klinkhardt. 1910. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. 283; 68 illustrations. M.7.)

⁶ *An Epitomized Index of Dermatological Literature*. An Epitome of Volumes 1 to 21 inclusive of the *British Journal of Dermatology*. By A. Winkelried Williams, M.B., C.M.Edin., D.P.H.Lond., etc. London: H. K. Lewis. 1910. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 275. 12s. 6d.)

⁷ *Traité d'Hygiène*. Fasc. xvii. *Etiologie et prophylaxie des maladies transmissibles par la peau et les muqueuses externes*. Par Achalme, Ed. et Et. Sergent, Marchoux, Simond, Levaditi, Thoinot, Ribierre, Morax, Jeanselme, Merchette. Paris: J. B. Bailliére et fils. 1911. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. 746; 199 figures. Fr. 16.)

fever, Simond on plague, Levaditi on recurrent fevers, Thoinot and Ribierre on typhus, and Morax on the contagious ophthalmias. All these subjects are handled in a clear, up-to-date, and conscientious manner.

One of the most important monographs is that on syphilis and venereal diseases generally, by Jeanselme. It should be read by every one conversant with the French language, for it deals with the subject in a manner which should serve as a model. It is interesting to note, in passing, that Jeanselme considers congenital (or so-called hereditary) syphilis is "in the great majority of cases, if not in all," transmitted through the mother—a point that has been insisted on by Matzenauer, whose excellent monograph was reviewed in these columns some years ago, Pernet, and others. But the direct paternal origin is still adhered to by the majority, especially in France, so that Jeanselme's contrary opinion is a sign that opinions are undergoing a change across the Channel. The quality being so good all through, it would perhaps be hypercritical to call attention to an error on the part of the writer on erythrasma. He refers to d'hoobie itch as a disease that "appears to be merely an inflamed erythrasma"; this is not correct, as the fungus found in erythrasma is quite different from the fungus found in d'hoobie itch, in which there are at least three different species of trichophyton, more recently called epidermophyton—namely, *E. cruris*, *E. perneti*, *E. rubrum* (Castellani).⁸ A curious printer's error is the heading—"Syphilis aqueuse" for "S. acquisite." The volume is so well written that it should prove indispensable.

WAR MEDALS AND DECORATIONS.

FOR upwards of twenty years Dr. PAYNE has been an enthusiastic collector, and his cabinets contain no fewer than 2,500 medals and decorations, 500 of which were awarded to officers.⁹ Many of these are priceless value, while the collection as a whole is representative of all that is best, both historically and artistically, of the honours conferred on our soldiers and sailors for gallant deeds and duties manfully done. The author's original idea was to prepare merely a catalogue of his treasures, but he found the work so absorbing and of such deep interest that his effort has developed into a large volume, beautifully and profusely illustrated by reproductions from his collection. The book begins with a list of military officers, arranged according to rank, whose decorations are in Dr. Payne's possession. This includes almost every grade of service from that of a field-marshal downwards, and is followed by a similar list of naval officers, headed by Admiral Lord Gambier, who commanded the expedition to Copenhagen in 1807. In both lists, as might be expected, the medical departments of the services are well represented. A considerable portion of the work is taken up in describing the features and distinctive marks of various decorations and the history of their origin.

To the ordinary reader the most fascinating part of the book will be found in the pages dealing with the biographies of the officers and men who were the recipients of the more important decorations in Dr. Payne's collection. We can cordially recommend the volume to all who are interested in the subject. Apart from its high intrinsic value, it is an object lesson of the amount of work which can be done by a busy practitioner during his odd hours of leisure.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

MR. W. BRUCE HEPBURN'S book on *Dental Metallurgy*¹⁰ will certainly, as the author hopes, be useful "to dental students preparing for the British, Colonial, and American dental degrees." The discussion of the preparation of metals from their ores has been cut down to reasonable limits, but yet bulks largely in the book. The chapter on the behaviour of metals in the mouth suggests fields for useful research. Those on alloys, casting of metals, tempering, and pyrometry, though short, are full of useful informa-

⁸ See Castellani and Chalmers, *Manual of Tropical Medicine*, 1910, for fuller details.

⁹ *A Handbook of British and Foreign Orders, War Medals, and Decorations Awarded to the Army and Navy*. By A. A. Payne, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Sheffield: J. W. Northend. 1911. (Pp. 811. 31s. 6d.)

¹⁰ *Notes on Dental Metallurgy, for the use of Dental Students and Practitioners*. By W. Bruce Hepburn, L.D.S.Glasg., Lecturer on Dental Metallurgy, Glasgow. London: Bailliére, Tindall, and Cox. 1911. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 221. 5s.)

tion. An appendix, containing a table of alloys, physical constants of metals, etc., adds greatly to the value of the book, but it would repay more careful editing. In too many places the text is marred by careless use of words—for example (p. 20): "Iron pyrites contains iron and sulphur, and is largely used as a source of sulphur in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, the sulphur having been removed, and any traces of copper extracted."

UNDER the somewhat uninviting title, *Lectures on Biology*,¹¹ Dr. CURT THESING presents an exceedingly interesting book dealing with fundamental problems in biology. His statements of principles are open and unbiassed, and he weighs the claims of conflicting theories in a manner which is at once impartial and clear. He maintains the opinion, with which most will agree, that no one of the great biological theories is sufficient to explain everything, but that each is of value in its proper place, and so long as it fits in with known facts. He is at the same time a strenuous advocate of further advance in knowledge, and points the way to the vast fields of vital processes which still remain unexplored and unexplained. His philosophy is neither oppressive nor involved, and it is enlivened by a great wealth of illustration. Half-a-dozen coloured plates and numerous figures in the text add to the value of the book.

Dr. A. E. H. TUTTON's volume on *Crystals*,¹² in the International Science Series, is intended as a presentation of the phenomena of crystallography in a manner comprehensible to the non-technical reader, together with a brief account of the hypotheses as to the structure of solid matter which are based on those phenomena and on mathematical considerations. The book constitutes an amplification of the author's lecture to the British Association at Winnipeg in 1909, and the experimental demonstrations which were then given are described and illustrated. The author has not only the qualification of having devoted many years to the study of crystallography, and having attained a leading position in its investigation, but also the further one of being obviously imbued with enthusiasm for his subject. He is possibly a little too optimistic as to the extent to which those who are not familiar with the subject will be able to follow all the discussions, but technicalities are throughout avoided as far as the matter permits, and mathematical formulae are almost entirely absent. The historical development of the science is briefly traced from the observations of Caesalpinus in 1600 on the crystalline form of blue, green, and white vitriol down to the present. The seven styles of crystalline form are lucidly explained; isomorphism, polymorphism, and enantiomorphism are discussed, and many beautiful phenomena exhibited by crystals under polarized light are described and illustrated. The so-called "liquid crystals" which have recently been observed are described, and the volume concludes with a short account of Pope and Barlow's theory as to the connexion between crystalline structure and valency.

In the preface to his *Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases*¹³ Dr. HENRY A. CABLES (of St. Louis) states that his object was to provide a book of ready reference in urgent cases, and he believes that what he has written will assist in correct diagnosis and indicate appropriate treatment, as well as fix in the minds of his readers valuable information. He conveys this information in short aphoristic paragraphs, commencing with "Remember" in black type, each subject being dealt with first by reciting those facts concerning its clinical features which Dr. Cables desires to emphasize, and, secondly, by a section on treatment, the latter being abundantly supplied with formulae of prescriptions. In a short book of under 300 pages printed in large type it is obvious that only a partial review of the wide subject of medicine is possible, and it is difficult to express the whole truth in the manner which the author has chosen. We agree that, speaking generally, he has selected the more important facts, but in medicine one-sided teaching has the great disadvantage that knowledge of exceptions is absolutely necessary if grave mistakes are to be avoided, so that if undue stress be laid upon one symptom, a beginner, for whom such a book is presumably written, is likely to be misled. The names

of drugs and preparations are those of the *U.S. Pharmacopoeia*, and some of the preparations are not known to us. The book is much disfigured by numerous slips in grammar, spelling, and latinity. Among the omissions which we think are of importance are: The use of hot-air baths in nephritis; the need for removing carious teeth in pernicious anaemia; the value of normal serum in haemorrhage; the relation of syphilis to disease of the aortic valves; the value of leeching to relieve the pain of pneumonia; the use of von Pirquet's test in the diagnosis of obscure tubercle; the value of purin-free diet and of vaccine treatment in certain diseases; while the directions for the treatment of diabetes appear quite inadequate. The author is opposed to the sanatorium treatment for phthisis, holding that all that is necessary can be carried out better in the patient's own home.

The object of Dr. FERGUSSON's book on *The Vagrant*¹⁴ is to focus attention on the practical remedies for vagrancy which have been suggested by the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and have recommended themselves to the Poor Law authorities. He believes that the causes of vagrancy are mostly economic, and though a large proportion of those who become chargeable to the Poor Law are "doomed to be paupers from their births because they were born unfit," he holds that the question of heredity requires further elucidation before we can accept fully the theory that as a general rule paupers are born, not made, and that at any rate there is "no reason why the vagrant should remain a permanent institution." Some description is given of the labour colonies of various Continental countries, the problem as it presents itself in Scotland is stated, and the recommendations of the various Scottish county councils quoted. A concluding chapter deals with the need for the establishment of an industrial colony for the treatment of epileptics in Scotland, and an account is given of such a colony in Germany.

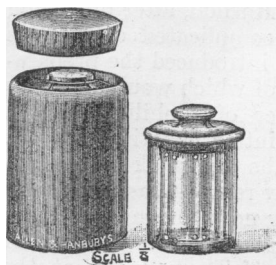
Dr. BOX has produced a little *Post-Mortem Manual*¹⁵ for students engaged in *post-mortem* work, and for those medical men who may, in the course of practice, be called upon to conduct autopsies. As it is intended for use in the *post-mortem* room, no details of microscopy or bacteriology are included, though indications are given of the conditions under which such examinations may be deemed necessary. It is a beginner's book, but it is a very useful one. Even with great experience it is quite easy to overlook at the time some observation which subsequent consideration or collateral investigation show to have been needed. The beginner, with some such guide as this, if helped also by the provision of a brief written statement of the clinical history, as Dr. Box suggests, should be able to make an examination that will bear criticism. Every aid to the performance of really thorough autopsies is welcome. The most interesting and valuable observations made by experienced pathologists are often those that result from routine examination of parts seemingly far removed from the area ordinarily affected by the immediate cause of death. It is a very practical and accurate little manual.

¹⁴ *The Vagrant: What to Do with Him.* By R. Menzies Fergusson, D.D. London: J. Nisbet and Co. 1911. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 62. 6d.)
¹⁵ *Post-Mortem Manual.* By Charles R. Box, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1910. (8vo, pp. 335; 19 illustrations. 6s.)

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

Wooden Case for Ligature Jar containing Iodine Solution.

MR. C. HAMILTON WHITEFORD (Plymouth) writes: The boxwood cases with screw-down caps having repeatedly given me trouble owing to the threads failing to bite, I have had made for me by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, a case of soft wood, which has the advantage of lightness; the stopper is a plain plug with sloping slides, which wedges into the neck of the case. This does away with the screw-down cap, of which the threads get out of gear. Before placing the jar in the case a string should be tied round the neck



of the jar, the ends of the string lying on the lid of the jar. Without such string there may be a little difficulty in lifting the jar out of the case.

¹¹ *Lectures on Biology.* By Dr. Curt Thesing. Translated from second edition by W. R. Boelter. London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 1910. (Demy 8vo, pp. 342; illustrated. 10s. 6d.)

¹² *Crystals.* By A. E. H. Tutton, D.Sc., M.A., F.R.S. With 120 illustrations. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co., Limited. 1911. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 301; 24 plates. 5s.)

¹³ *Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases.* By Henry A. Cables, B.S., M.D. London: George Keener and Co. 1911. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 298, 10s. 6d.)