

in general, for the treatment of cataract forms a large part of the daily routine of the surgeon working in India, and we strongly recommend the book to all who are interested in this fascinating branch of surgery.

E. O'G. K.

**DISEASES OF THE SKIN. (CATECHISM SERIES).**

—By J. F. Smith, M.A., M.B. Second Edition. E. and S. Livingstone, Edinburgh. Pp. 86. Price, 1s. 6d. Postage, 2d.

This is an outline of the bare essentials of diagnosis, treatment, etc., of skin diseases arranged in the form of question and brief answer. The book is only of use for students for the purpose of rapid revision before an examination, and only those students will be able to benefit from its use, who are endowed with the faculty of rapidly committing to memory anything they read, for there are no explanatory passages, typical examples and cases quoted which serve to fix facts in the mind of the average individual.

P. A. M.

**A MANUAL OF MENTAL DISEASES. A TEXTBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS IN INDIA.**

—By C. J. Lodge Patch, M.C., Major, I.M.S. 1934. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, London. Pp. vii plus 332. Price, 10s. 6d.

It is rare for a manual of mental disease to be written in a language that is readily understandable by the medical student, and by the general practitioner of medicine. It is equally rare for such a book to create an interest in the somewhat obtuse subject with which it deals and further to impress the reader with the practical professional knowledge and sound common sense which the author presents his subject. And yet this manual possesses all these characteristics. Added to this the author has the clarity of a gifted writer who has taken the trouble to weigh the value of each written word. In simple language, Major Patch describes the healthy mind and now his disorders deviate from normality. In succeeding chapters the clinical recognition, including both physical and mental symptoms, of the psychoses is clearly described. The causation of prophylaxis of mental disease with the steps which should be taken by parents, teachers and family physicians to diminish the risk of the possible break-down in a predisposed child are adequately dealt with. The concluding chapters on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment are especially valuable. This book is described as a textbook for students and practitioners in India and admirably does it fulfil this rôle. Lucky is the student whose teacher advises him to follow this textbook along with the teacher's own prescribed course of instruction. There is no textbook in India on mental disease comparable to it in merit. Holding this view, perhaps the reviewer may be pardoned for adding a few criticisms.

It is regrettable that the author did not include a brief chapter—even if only of one or two pages—on the pathology of mental disease—covering what little is actually known and indicating what is summarized. For pathology is the foundation of all knowledge and enquiry and research would best be stimulated if the gaps in our knowledge were laid bare. The author has also deliberately excluded the psychoneuroses. His reasons were weighty—and yet such is the charm and clarity of the author's writing that there is a distinct sense of loss at this omission. Moreover, the wide distribution of the psychoneuroses and the frequency with which the young graduate is called upon to deal with them renders it imperative that he should hear of these disorders from the physician and from the alienist alike. For the psychoneuroses form a common meeting ground on which these two groups of teachers can come to grips. It is hoped that in the next edition a few chapters or an appendix will

be added on the psychoneuroses, or, in the alternative, that the author may publish a second small volume dealing with such conditions. It would also be of advantage if a few line diagrams, such as the author probably uses in his lecture room, could be included. As has already been indicated no student or practitioner of medicine who desires enjoyment, interest and instruction should miss reading this most instructive and attractive of textbooks.

H. S.

**A TEXTBOOK OF HISTOLOGY.—By A. A. Maximow and W. Bloom. Second Edition. 1934. W. B. Saunders Company, Limited, Philadelphia and London. Pp. 662 with 530 illustrations. Price, 30s.**

PROFESSOR MAXIMOW has left his mark in medical history as a cytologist of the first rank, and it is therefore fortunate that he should have left behind him when he died sufficient manuscript and notes to enable a book on histology to be published in his name. The historical value of such a book would in any case be considerable, but it is greatly to the credit of the second author that this book has proved of such practical value as well, that another edition was demanded within four years.

We are not at all surprised that this book should have proved so popular, as it is in every way a satisfactory one. The plan of arrangement usual in a book of this kind is followed. The descriptions are clear and the illustrations well chosen; the latter maintain a nice balance between realism and clarity, and the half-dozen coloured plates are especially useful.

The sections on the blood, on the blood-forming and destroying tissues, and on the spleen claimed most of the reviewer's attention. These sections are particularly good, though emphasis is usually laid on the theory favoured by the late Professor Maximow. For example, the present author is very hard on all the pluralist theories of blood formation, and one would gather from reading these sections that the unitarian theory of the common origin of all blood elements from a single stem cell, the hæmocytoblast, was universally accepted, whereas this is not the case; the blood histiocyte is looked upon as a purely pathological cell which seldom, if ever except during the agonal phase, appears in the general systemic circulation. The references to the blood-destroying tissues are perhaps not as full as one might wish for, but this is a subject on which present-day knowledge is not very complete.

The section on the spleen has been revised by Professor Taliaferro; it would appear that this organ is coming to be looked upon as the special preserve of protozoologists.

The second edition contains a number of useful references; these, we are told in the preface, were included by special request. They have added considerably to the value of the book from the point of view of post-graduate readers. On the whole, it is a very excellent book and one that we can thoroughly recommend to teachers and students.

L. E. N.

**A TEXTBOOK OF HISTOLOGY.—By Harvey Ernest Jordan, A.M., Ph.D. Sixth Edition. 1934. D. Appleton-Century Company, Incorporated, London. 1934. Pp. xxvii plus 738 with 610 illustrations. Price, 30s.**

The sixth edition of this well-known textbook on histology has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. The most extensive revisions and additions both in the text and figures are in the sections dealing with blood, the reticulo-endothelial system, the endocrine tissue, striped muscle, neuroglia, nervous tissue, the reproductive systems and the lymphoid organs. In spite of many additions the author by