systems. Chancroid phagedena and inguinal bubo have also received more attention, and the chapter on vulvo-vaginitis of children has been almost entirely re-written. In spite of these additions, the volume has wisely been restricted to its original size. We can recommend this and Harrison's "Manual of Venereal Diseases" as the most important works on the subject that have appeared in this country. Both are excellent works but we prefer the method in which the Edinburgh manual presents its subject. Any student or practitioner who wishes to keep abreast with the progress in venereal disease cannot afford to be without the present volume.

THE LUNG.

By WILLIAM SNOW MILLER, D.Sc., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, University of Wisconsin. 1937. London. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. Pp. xv+210, with 152 illustrations. Price 34s.

This beautifully printed and illustrated volume represents the result of the author's researches over a period of nearly fifty years into the structure of the lung in animals and man. As a detailed account of the histological anatomy of the human lung it is, probably, unequalled, and if from the clinician's standpoint it contains a considerable amount of detail that is, perhaps, not directly applicable to those practical problems which immediately concern him, it is, nevertheless, a monument of accurate observation and description which cannot fail to be of scientific value and upon which Professor Miller should receive universal congratulation.

The main portion of the book is concerned with the detailed anatomy of the lungs and air-passages, their blood, lymphatic, and nervous supply, and that of the pleural membrane. In chapter X, which is entitled "Key-Points," there is an interesting and useful summary regarding various definite points where certain structures are constantly found which are of special importance in so far as they assist in the formation of a clear conception of the architecture of the normal lung.

The addition of a historical sketch, comprised in the last few chapters, enables the

reader to compare the author's own conceptions with those of various well known anatomists from Malpighi onwards, and adds to the completeness and to the interest of the work as a whole. The illustrations are particularly good, and are beautifully reproduced on good paper. The whole appearance and format of the book are attractive; there is a full bibliography, and a good index.

In reviewing a work so thorough of its kind and upon which so much patient and accurate labour has been expended by a master hand, we hesitate to raise objections. Nevertheless, we cannot but regret that space has not been reserved in a book so important as this for consideration of the gross anatomy of the lung and bronchial tree in its special relation to the problems of modern thoracic surgery. Such criticism is, perhaps, inevitable from the clinical side, and until quite recently it has been applicable to most if not all teaching of the fundamental sciences upon which the study of practical medicine and surgery is based. It does not, however, detract from the admiration which we feel for this work as a study in pure anatomy. As a reference book on the architecture of the human lung, it is as complete and as thorough as any with which we are acquainted, and it should take a very high place as a standard in the literature of this subject.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION.

By T. BAILEY CARTER, M.D., Pp. 326. 250 Illustrations. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1937. Price 20/-.

This book will be a welcome addition to the library of the medical man, being as it is the best introduction to the science of electro-cardiography which we have come across. It is a veritable atlas of electro-cardiograms and thus should be specially valuable as a work of reference and for teaching purposes.

After a few short introductory chapters on the basis of electro-cardiography, the origin and course of the heart currents, the technique of the process of electro-cardiography

and the physiological variations of the electro-cardiogram, the various abnormalities and their indications are discussed in detail and profusely illustrated by exceptionally clear tracings. One specially interesting feature of the book is a series of short clinical histories with accompanying electro-cardiograms.

In addition, the author supplies a useful glossary of the terms employed in this branch of medicine, a bibliography of the most important works in this field which have appeared between 1916 and 1935, and that essential for a book of reference, a very full general index.

A TEXT-BOOK OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY (Amentia).

By A. F. TREDGOLD, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., Lecturer on Mental Deficiency, London University, Consulting Physician, University College Hospital. 6th Edition, Pp. xvi + 536. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1937. Price 25/-.

The Report, published in 1908, of the Royal Commission appointed in 1904, to consider the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded gives the number of aments in England and Wales in 1906 as about 150,000, which was equivalent to about 4 per 1,000 of the population. In 1924, a joint committee of the Board of Education and the Board of Control reinvestigated the matter and in their Report published in 1929 they found the total number of aments in England and Wales to have been 314,000, corresponding to some 8 per 1,000 of the population. After making due allowance for the more elaborate character of the joint committee's investigations which would account for some of the difference in the incidence of amentia, one is forced to the conclusion that though the number of mental defectives has not actually doubled itself in the 20 years' interval between the two investigations, there has undoubtedly been a very considerable increase in their percentage

incidence. The subject of Mental Deficiency is, therefore, one of very great sociological importance.

The book before us, written by a leading authority on the subject, deals most interestingly and comprehensively with every phase and aspect of the problem, and in revising the work for the present edition Dr. Tredgold has not only incorporated the results of the numerous researches carried out in this field since the appearance of the last edition in 1929 (e.g., a full account is given of Phenylketonuria, or phenylpyruvic amentia, first described as recently as 1934), but has rewritten a number of chapters and added a section on the Chronological Development of the Normal Mind. The result is an up-to-date book which is encyclopædic in scope and is also a veritable mine of most authoritative information on the ætiology, classification, distribution, psychology, pathology, clinical examination (including a critical account of the various mental tests), diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and training of the various types of primary and secondary amentias, as well as on the legal and sociological aspects of mental deficiency. Moreover, the style in which it is written is so "palatable," and the excellent pictorial embellishments—in the form of well chosen and artistically reproduced photographs, illustrating the physiognomical and concomitant features of the various types of amentia—are so "appetising" that, like a gastronomically prepared meal, the book is eagerly "devoured," easily "digested" and pleasantly "absorbed."

It is quite unnecessary—even if space permitted—to give a general survey of the book which must be already known to many thousands of people. We would, however, like to call attention to a few matters of some interest. Dr. Tredgold believes that while an idiotic child may result from a conception taking place during a state of alcoholic intoxication, it only occurs with extreme rarity (p. 39). The author has either overlooked, or intentionally ignored, Pearson and Elderton's mathematical analysis of extensive statistics on the subject, in