The author considers that pain is an evil sensation per se, and is really a function of the sympathetic—an evil to be eradicated when possible. His description of arteritis obliterans is masterly, though the operation of excision of the artery, which he advocates in certain cases, is probably not one that has been attempted by surgeons in this country to any great extent.

It is a pity that the author does not give technical details of his method of infiltration of the stellate ganglion which, in his hands, has had such wonderful effects.

Finally, congratulations are due to the translator, Professor A. Young of Glasgow. The whole volume is one that can be read more as a story than as a text-book. It is full of suggestive thoughts and should be read by all surgeons and many physicians.

POPOPULATION, RACE AND EUGENICS.

By Morris Siegel, M.D. Published by the author, 546, Barlow Street, East Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. 1939. Price $3.00.

This book is a simple straightforward account of eugenics in its relation to population, race, and problems of mental deficiency and mental defect.

It takes the form of an elementary textbook which could well be read by every sixth form boy or girl and every couple newly married or contemplating marriage. It contains little that is controversial and little critical discussion of conflicting theories. Its understanding requires no special statistical knowledge, and a description of statistical methods does not come within its scope.

It is therefore a very useful book which doctors may safely recommend to anyone who asks for advice on such subjects.

THE DYSENTERIC DISORDERS.

By Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., F.R.C.P.
Senior Physician, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London; Consulting Physician to the Colonies. Pp. 613. Cassell & Co. London. 1939. 25s. 0d.

It is now recognised that many diseases of the bowel superficially similar, may be due to various causes and that their successful treatment depends upon the recognition of these fundamental differences. The importance therefore of a clear analysis of the dysenteric disorders is obvious and in the present volume the author has undertaken such a review based upon his own long experience.

Methods of investigation are first considered and there is a particularly useful section on the use of the sigmoidoscope. The next four chapters are devoted to an exhaustive consideration of the bacillary dysenteries. Amoebic dysentery and secondary amoebiasis are then dealt with in six chapters following which is a chapter on the rarer protozoal dysenteries. The various helminthic dysenteries are then considered and a short section also discusses certain other infective diarrheas.

The author next deals with those dysenteric disorders of more obscure etiology, namely the statorrheas, mucous and idiopathic ulcerative colitis, while toxic and mechanical causes of diarrheas also receive due attention as well as the non-tropical infections such as tuberculosis, actinomycosis and syphilis. There is also an appendix on the intestinal protozoa and technical laboratory methods, followed by a useful bibliography classified on an etiological basis.

The volume is well-printed and profusely illustrated with photographs and drawings, many of which, particularly those in colour, being examples of the author's own gifted artistry.

Although so many of the dysenteries are primarily tropical the book has not been undertaken solely from this specialised viewpoint, and it will probably prove of the greatest value to all dealing with the different forms of diarrhea which are so important in practical medicine.

CARDBNOVASCULAR DISEASES.

Cardiovascular diseases, their diagnosis and treatment.


As is clearly stated in the preface the object of the authors has been to produce a concise survey of the up-to-date conceptions of cardiovascular diseases and it has been their particular aim to emphasize the common, practical and frequently neglected problems which are often omitted altogether or dismissed with a few words in many text-books.

The opening chapters of the book are devoted to the symptomatology of decompeniation and the complex etiology (e.g. back pressure, forward failure, errors of tissue, metabolism, etc.) which is responsible for its development; the close relationship of attacks of spontaneous breathlessness, cardiac asthma and pulmonary oedema is emphasized and their development, signifying as a rule left ventricular failure, is recognised as indicative of pulmonary stasis and reflexes via the vagus nerves to the respiratory centre from the compressed lung vessels; valuable clinical information follows in regard to other well-recognized manifestations of decompeniation, i.e. oedema, enlargement of the liver, cyanosis, increased blood volume, etc., etc. And an excellent account is included of the diagnostic features of pulmonary embolism and the authors stress the frequent incidence of pulmonary embolism and the rarity of its diagnosis in vita vitam; they insist that it is a usual occurrence in the majority of patients suffering from chronic heart disease, they particularly mention the vago-vagal reflexes.
for which pulmonary emboli are responsible and they outline the electrocardiographic anomalies which typify their occurrence.

An interesting and informative chapter deals with the diagnosis of valvular lesions, and, rather than adopting the stereotyped textbook descriptions, it has obviously been the author's intention to evaluate the physical signs of valvular discrepancies in the light of modern knowledge and to clarify the criteria on which one may rely in assessing the grade and prognosis of single or combined affections.

Equally valuable chapters afford a comprehensive survey of all the more usual cardiac and vascular disabilities and the authors have been at pains to incorporate in their descriptions both personal observations and the approved results of others in the field of cardiovascular research.

The section on myocardial ischaemia affords comprehensive and up-to-date information of the condition, and its differential diagnosis is considered in careful detail. The much-debated question of cardiac disease and pregnancy is outlined and though the authors advise that the physician "must individualise each case after thorough examination and observation", also that "too schematic a procedure is not permissible", they recognise the very large number of serious risks and complications which may occur during pregnancy in cardiac patients and one wonders whether it might not have been wiser for them to have pronounced all forms of structural heart disease as contra-indicative of pregnancy, under which circumstances the final decision would invariably be the responsibility of the physician.

The concluding chapters of the book discuss therapeutic procedures for the management of decompensation and the questions of digitalis therapy, dehydration, cardiac stimulants, the specific therapy of aortitis, the indications for the prescription of morphia, etc., etc., are reviewed in detail; other remedial measures and methods of treatment for special conditions find ample reference in the preceding chapters.

We feel that this book is a valuable contribution to cardiology and that its wide circulation is assured; it should prove to be of great value to practitioners, also to senior students and expert cardiologists.

BERGEY'S
MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY.

This book is as difficult to review as it is to read, being a glorified bacteriological catalogue using the latest terminological principles. As a work of reference, this is ideal, though the student, unless of the more stouthearted type, will recoil in dismay. There can be no doubt, however, that so much information cannot be compressed into a reasonable space by any other method.

While it is useless for a reviewer to pretend that he has read such a book from cover to cover, one or two debatable points may be mentioned.

(i) H. Pertussis is described as growing on blood agar. The writer of this review has never seen this happen. Generally speaking, the special Bordet-plate medium is necessary.

(ii) H. Influenzae. We are startled to learn that the common name of this bacillus, associated since 1892 with the name of Pfeiffer, is "the Koch-Weeks bacillus." No mention is made of the admirable boiled blood-clot medium for the growth of this.

(iii) The bacilli of Morgan are referred to only under the heading of Proteus Morganii. In our experience, two organisms of this type are of importance. These are styled B. Morgan I and B. Morgan 14, the latter, which is missing from most text-books, being the more common of the two. This organism ferments glucose, maltose and mannite with the formation of acid and gas, and produces indol in peptone water. It is not uncommonly responsible for infantile diarrhoea, and is common in the stools of old dysentery cases in whom it produces chronic instability of the bowels.

Proteus Morganii, on the other hand, is a simulant of B. Morgan 1 only. The essential features of the Proteus group are "swarming" on agar and the liquefaction of gelatine. A true Morgan 1 does neither. The true Proteus Morganii also does not produce indol. It seems to us useless to dismiss these points as irrelevant while, at the same time, performing (as this book does) the strange feat of separating typhoid and paratyphoid organisms into totally different genera merely because two produce gas and a third does not. The family resemblances are too powerful, both from a clinical and serological point of view, for any such extraordinary divorce; it would almost be more sensible to reject gas formation as a criterion altogether.

Another feature which seems peculiar in the absence of any mention of rough colonies in the typhoid group. In a book claiming to be as exhaustive as this, such an omission is most extraordinary.

There is no getting away, however, from the fact that the book is a most valuable work of reference which should find its place in every large bacteriological laboratory. In these days, the complexity of bacteriology is such that the most erudite bacteriologist need not be ashamed to refer to books. The legal profession has never shewn any reluctance to do so.