

A SHORT ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

By F. SHERWOOD TAYLOR, Ph.D., M.A.

Wm. Heinemann. Price, 5/-.

This book is accurately described in the preface as a short version of the author's "Organic Chemistry". The larger book was noticed in this Journal in August last. In that notice certain errors in the formulæ of amino-acids, and certain statements relating to the actions of drugs were referred to. These remain in this abridged edition. Is it advisable to introduce such a statement as the following into a book on the elements of

Organic Chemistry: "It (choral hydrate) is a valuable hypnotic. A dose of about 5 grains induces a natural and refreshing sleep; its great danger is the ease with which a choral-habit is established".

We have no other faults to find with this book; it merits all the praise bestowed on its larger precursor and is in fact, an excellent introduction to the study of organic chemistry.

COMBINED TEXTBOOK OF OBSTETRICS & GYNÆCOLOGY.

By J. M. MUNRO KERR, J. HAIG FERGUSON, JAMES YOUNG AND JAMES HENDRY.

2nd Edition. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone. 1933. Royal 8vo. pp. 1100.

Figs. 497. Price, 35/- Postage Inland 1s.; Abroad 2s.

On its first appearance ten years ago this Textbook was a pioneer effort to unify the two portions of the subject, although the student had always been examined in both together and the essential unity of Obstetrics and Gynæcology was then generally accepted. It quickly established itself and this greatly revised edition will undoubtedly enhance its already high repute. Its scope has been widened by the addition of three new chapters, one on reviewing "the Causes and Factors Influencing Puerperal Mortality," and two others by specialists in their own subjects on "The Infant in its First Month," by Professor Charles McNeil, and "Radiology," by Dr. J. Duncan White.

The first of these gives a summary of Professor Munro Kerr's recent valuable contribution on the subject and contains the essence of the matter. The remark on the relatively high death-rate from Cæsarean Section deserves quotation, "Cæsarean Section is such an easy way out of an obstetric difficulty that it is at present being abused". The chapter on the neonatal infant contains just what is essential in a book of this kind, being largely occupied with the physiological aspect and breast-feeding, and touching briefly artificial feeding and the commoner disorders but leaving further information to be obtained from pædiatric books or teachers. The last of these new chapters, also the final one of the book, illustrates and explains the help to be obtained from radiography in obstetrical and gynæcological diagnosis. It, too, provides that

basal minimum of information on radiotherapy required by the student.

The advantages of a combined book treating obstetrics and gynæcology as one subject is well exemplified in the early sections on the anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system and reproductive function, being the basal sciences common to both parts of the subject. The combination also enables a broader view to be given of the preventive aspect of the gynæcological disabilities arising from child-bearing, besides being more in accordance with modern thought and practice than the old-fashioned divided system.

The newer physiology and biochemistry is well represented and the matter of the book generally presents a sound and well-balanced view of present-day science and practice. The arrangement of the gynæcological part is open to criticism, for it is an illogical mixture of the old-fashioned anatomical and the modern pathological system. A general review of the infections affecting the reproductive tract is given separately and then the diseases of its individual parts, including inflammatory conditions, with many cross references to the chapter on infections,—a very cumbersome method. From the standpoint of the teacher a much clearer view can be given to the student by a purely pathological arrangement, for all diseases have a way of disregarding anatomical boundaries.

The book is somewhat unwieldy, but is very well printed, illustrated and indexed.