About half of the book is devoted to accounts of cases, and includes descriptions by patients of their experiences whilst undergoing treatment.

Discussing the etiology of morphinism the author states that over 50% of his cases owed their addiction to accidental causes, about 25% showed definite psychological abnormality, and in 15% there was a general failure of adaptation to life. These figures are at variance with the experience of others and of our own, which gives as the largest group those who have a constitutional inadequacy of adjustment.

Incidentally it may seem strange to some that a book on the treatment of morphinism should include no chapter on psychological treatment, believing as they do that at least three months of psychotherapy is required after the withdrawal of the drug. Dr. Scott is chiefly concerned with the reduction of pain during the actual withdrawal and thinks that by this means the patient will be more accessible to psychotherapeutic help. The average length of stay in the nursing home was four weeks, but eight cases were able to leave after three weeks or less.

This little book is of convenient size, attractively bound, and should prove of considerable assistance to anyone embarking on the treatment of these difficult cases.

A TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY.

By H. E. ROOF, M.D., D.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Second Edition. Edward Arnold & Co. 1936. Price 21/-.

The author of this well-known textbook of physiology has presented an account of physiology which is based on adequate experimental data. The presentation of the subject has been carefully considered and the outcome is a division of the book into four parts. The author leads the student from the known to the unknown, presenting to him the subjects with which he is familiar in the first place and then their application to problems in the body. For example, the mechanics of the heart are considered before the regulation of the organ.

The first section of the book deals with the mechanical aspects of the subject. The various mechanical processes that occur in

the body such as the mechanics of respiration, of the circulation, and the heat and electrical changes in muscle, are considered in detail.

Having gained a certain amount of mechanical knowledge a study is made of the means by which these mechanical processes are produced. Thus the second section is concerned with the chemical aspects of physiology.

The third section is devoted to the study of the regulating mechanisms of the body and the final section is concerned with the maintenance of the individual and reproduction of the species.

The author is to be congratulated on the presentation of the subject in such a helpful manner. The book is recommended to those who require an up-to-date knowledge of physiology.

THE HISTORY OF THE ACUTE EXANTHEMATA.

By J. D. ROLLESTON, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.S.A. William Heinemann (Medical Books) Ltd. 1937. Price 7s. 6d.

It is indeed fortunate that it is a condition of the Fitzpatrick Lectureship that the lectures must be published in book form, otherwise we might have been deprived of Dr. Rolleston's most erudite and interesting monograph. No man of course is more qualified than Dr. Rolleston to undertake the unravelling of the history of the exanthemata as he has spent practically his whole active life in their study and treatment. It is without question because of this very personal knowledge of the field that he has produced such a comprehensive and authoritative presentation of the subject.

The diseases which are considered are small pox, chicken pox, scarlet fever, measles and German measles. Each disease is traced from its earliest recorded mention up to the present day, and although it is not to be wondered at that only very slowly did their differentiation from one another come about it is remarkable to see how confusion continued until very recent times. In the case of small pox and chicken pox this confusion is perhaps not so unexpected, since even very recently chicken pox has had to be made a notifiable disease because of the mistakes in diagnosis which were apt to arise. It is, however, with astonishment that one reads

that men of the clinical acumen of Henoch could not even until the end (1896) appreciate German measles as a separate and individual infection. But after all, are not the difficulties of unravelling biological phenomena and the fallibility of even the greatest of authorities among the salutary lessons to be learned from the work of the medical historian?

Throughout the various sections of the book Dr. Rolleston supplies in the form of quotations from earlier writers much documentary evidence which lends interest and authority to his story. It may be remarked, however, that as almost without exception German, Italian and French authorities are given in the form of English translations

there would seem little reason for retaining in the original the one language (Latin) of which the student of today is most ignorant. No doubt a latin quotation has a certain artistic effect but by means of a translation in the form of a foot-note appearances could have been saved and intelligence at the same time satisfied.

Each chapter is supplied with an extensive bibliography, and in addition there is a very full index and a list of the authorities mentioned, all of which gives the work value as a book of reference. There are also ten plates of portraits of men who have left their mark in this field of medicine, and it is gratifying to find that of this number six are Englishmen.

Miscellaneous.

This Section deals with New Drugs, Preparations, Surgical Instruments etc. The description of each article is supplied by the Producer. Particulars regarding insertions, which are free of cost, may be obtained from the Business Manager, Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Journal, 519, Grand Buildings, W.C.2.

The Post-Graduate Medical teaching facilities in Glasgow extend during the summer session from June to October.

The arrangements fall chiefly into two divisions (a) a General Medical and Surgical Course, and (b) Clinical Assistantships. The former takes place during the last two weeks in August and the first fortnight in September. A limited number of latter appointments are available not only during the summer months but at other times of the year.

The principal hospitals taking part in Post-Graduate teaching in Glasgow are:

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The Royal Hospital for Sick Children (280 cots);

The Eye Infirmary (110 beds);

The Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital (175 beds);

The Royal Samaritan Hospital for Women (190 beds);

The Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital (57 beds);

The Royal Cancer Hospital (52 beds); and Radium Institute (17 beds).

Inclusive fee for the General Medical and Surgical Course is ten guineas, or six guineas for either the first or the second fortnight.

An informative booklet is published by the GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION which gives full details and can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Dr. James Carslaw, 9 Woodside Terrace, C.3.

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"Common Skin Diseases." By A. C. Roxburgh, M.A., M.D., B.Ch., F.R.C.P. New (Fourth Edition) Thoroughly Revised. With 26 new illustrations. Pp. xxxii+402. With 8 coloured plates and 165 text illustrations. Demy 8vo. 15/- net.

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