field covered. Seven chapters cover procedures connected with disorders of the main systems. All are good, but the section on the nervous system might have been expanded to include tests of vestibular and auditory function. Special sections on clinical radiology, the liver, blood transfusion and the treatment of water and salt depletion will be welcomed.

The final chapter presents a miscellany of valuable information including the principles of dietetics and the technique of special procedures such as joint aspiration. Lists of normal values and conversion tables will be found useful, and those who possess a copy of this book will no longer be tormented by times and dates relating to infectious fevers; they will convert milligrams per cent. to milliequivalents in a twinkling, and they will remain calm and unharassed by the vulgar fractions of pharmacopeial dosage, which tax even the best memories.

Throughout the volume the author and his colleagues have followed an original and sound plan; the rationale of a particular procedure is first approached from a physiological angle. This is followed by a brief description of the apparatus required and the technique employed. The final and most important paragraph deals with the interpretation of results. Instructions are clear and precise, but occasionally they suffer from the effects of multiple authorship and are contradictory (e.g. pp. 12, 123).

This book is destined for a long and useful career. As a guide to medical students it should prove invaluable but, in meeting the needs of the doctor engaged in modern hospital and general practice, it has few equals and no superior in this country today.

D.S.L.

OCCUPATIONAL EYE DISEASES AND INJURIES

By Joseph Minton, F.R.C.S. Pp. viii + 184, with 24 illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1949. 21s.

This book is designed to provide ophthalmologists, industrial medical officers and nursing sisters with a handbook covering the essential clinical features of the industrial hazards to which the visual apparatus is subject and the common visual problems which arise in the selection of industrial operatives. It also aims to bring home to ophthalmologists the importance of occupation as an etiological factor in ocular disease.

The book falls into three parts. The first deals with occupational injuries—mechanical, chemical and those due to radiant energy—and diseases—conjunctivitis, keratitis and the effects of various industrial solvents and poisons, and miners' nystagmus. The medico-legal problems which these various accidents arise are illustrated by case reports. The second part deals with the selection of personnel—the visual standards required for ordinary and special jobs, and the problems of the one-eyed, the blind and the partially-blind person. Thirdly are two chapters on environment—lighting and colour schemes in industry and some problems of colour vision. There are two final chapters on protection of the eyes.

The section on mechanical injuries is largely concerned with first-aid diagnosis and treatment though the author's views on more specialized methods of treatment are outlined. The remainder of the book, from chemical injuries onwards is a fund of information to ophthalmologists on aspects of their speciality of which many of them know little. It is most readable, excellently illustrated, and each chapter is provided with a bibliography. A very minor point for criticism is the frequency with which the first person singular recurs in the text.

The book is an interesting and valuable addition to ophthalmic textbooks, and is the only one of its kind in the English language.

A.L.

DISEASES OF THE NOSE AND THROAT

By Sir St. Clair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Ll.D., and V. E. Negus, M.S., F.R.C.S. 5th Edition. Pp. xix + 1004, with 369 illustrations and 43 plates. London: Cassell & Co., 1948. 70s.

This is not just another edition of this well-known book. It represents a milestone in British laryngology, for during its preparation the original author died, and although he had done much under the adverse conditions of war, the final preparation was left to his co-author. Negus is, indeed, a worthy successor, but he has had to enlist the aid of a number of colleagues owing to the rapid expansion of the subject and its closer association with other branches of medicine and surgery, each more highly technical than at the time of publication of the last edition.

Thus, there have been considerable changes in parts of the book, although the general scheme remains much the same, and details of operative procedures are no longer relegated to a special chapter at the end but are appropriately included in the section dealing with the condition for which they are most frequently performed. The section on therapeutics now includes an account of sulphonamide and antibiotic therapy, in which the inadvisability of administering these powerful agents for trivial conditions is rightly stressed. There is an account of hormone and vitamin therapy, and also an article on irradiation in the treatment of new growths, where the relative merits of surgery and other methods of treatment are discussed. The classification of the blood diseases has been brought up to date, and the relevant pathology described. A new section on the physiology of the nose serves to remind us of the importance of conservation of the nasal mucosa, whilst the section on nasal allergy has been expanded and does much to clarify the situation, without denying the complexity of the subject.

The section on laryngeal palsy has been re-

written, with a more detailed account of the appearances resulting from the paralysis of individual muscles, and the new classification of malignant disease of the pharynx is excellent.

In spite of additions to certain sections the length of the book has been increased by only some 30 pages, owing to judicious pruning in the space devoted to conditions which are less frequently seen at the present time. Most of the illustrations have been seen before, and some belong to the original edition, while a great deal of the text remains unchanged. Much of it bears the stamp of the man who used to stand up at a meeting to say: 'The solution of this problem is quite simple. If you will buy a certain book (price two guineas) you will find written on page etc., etc., etc.' Alas, the price has increased, but the publishers are to be congratulated on maintaining the high standard of the previous editions in spite of shortage of materials.

The wealth of knowledge and experience presented is extraordinary and, for those who wish to pursue the more obscure problems, the bibliography, which has been completely revised, gives an abundance of references. The book is strongly recommended to all interested in the subject.

A.B.-D.

TEXTBOOK OF GYNAECOLOGY

By J. H. PEEL, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. 3rd Edition. Pp. xvi + 477, with 219 illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1950. 24s.

This book fulfils all the essentials of a textbook on gynaecology for students and practitioners. It is thoroughly up to date without containing unproven experimental work, yet sufficient mention of recent developments is made to hold the interest. The arrangement is orderly and the subject matter is presented in a very readable fashion.

The drawings and microphotographs, of which there is a thoroughly adequate number, are of high standard and go far in illustrating an already clear text.

R.C.P.

RECENT ADVANCES IN THE PHYSIOLOGY OF VISION

By Professor Hamilton Hartridge, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., Sc.D., F.R.S. Pp. xii + 401, with 236 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill, Ltd. 1950. 25s.

Research into the problems of visual sensation has attracted considerable attention among physiologists in recent times. Since the standard English textbooks were written new approaches along anatomical, physiological and physical lines have developed and have resulted in a reorientation of our attitude to many of these basic problems.

The publishers are to be congratulated upon the acquisition of the Director of the Physiology of Vision Research Unit to introduce the first volume on the subject in the Recent Advances series. Students of Ophthalmology, as well as physiologists, will welcome its appearance and will find, in its eight chapters, a comprehensive survey of the newer methods of investigation in use, and of the knowledge in which they have resulted. The clarity of the text is considerably enhanced by the inclusion of excellent descriptions of the older work.

H.E.H.

THE FILTERABLE VIRUSES

By FRANCIS O. HOLMES. Pp. xxiii + 160. London: Ballière, Tindall and Cox. 1948. 20s.

This book, published as a supplement to Bergey's Manual of Descriptive Bacteriology, puts forward a classification of the filterable viruses together with a binomial nomenclature according to Linnaeus. The viruses are treated as members of one order and are sub-divided into three main sub-orders, namely, bacterial, plant and animal viruses. These are further sub-divided into families, genera and species.

Two main criticisms can be made against this classification. Firstly, binomial nomenclature is both unwieldy and unnecessary at the present time. Secondly, and this is the main criticism, the classification is based upon symptomatology which assuredly the one basis upon which it should not be made. It is open to question whether the time has yet come for a classification of the filterable viruses to be made; if it has, then the first problem is to decide on what basis that classification should be made. This is a problem for discussion and agreement on an international basis. This book will undoubtedly stimulate action towards that end.

J.A.D.

CLINICAL NUTRITION

Edited by NORMAN JOLIFFE, M.D., FREDERICK TISDALL, M.D., and PAUL R. CANNON, M.D. Pp. xvi + 925, with 78 tables and 127 illustrations, 61 in colour. London: Cassell & Co., Ltd. 1950. 90s.

It is now well known that proper nutrition in addition to its role in the prevention of nutritional diseases is not only a major safeguard against all types of illness, but is also one of the most valuable forms of clinical treatment of disease. Until comparatively recently the nutritive values of the average diets of hospital patients were considerably below their nutritional requirements, but where the modern treatment of special diets has been prescribed marked improvement in many cases was soon manifest.

The vast literature of nutrition is largely scattered throughout a diversity of technical and medical periodicals which are not readily available to the general practitioner and it is becoming increasingly difficult to and the appropriate information at