

for taking this course being that he believes the symptoms of disease are more often confounded with those of the remedies exhibited for its cure than is quite creditable to therapeutics.

The various diseases are considered in the manner usually adopted in text-books on general medicine with the exception that the causative pathology has been blended with the consecutive clinical features of the disease. The general plan which is adopted may be best explained by taking one disease as an example, and we have selected pleurisy for this purpose. The *definition* is first given—"an inflammation of the pleura, rarely primary but usually secondary to tuberculosis or other lung disease, general infections, septicæmic affections, and various diseases in contiguous tissues or organs." The *etiology* is then considered in a very comprehensive manner, the associated pathological conditions being fully indicated. The *bacteriology* is next discussed, attention being drawn to the fact that the etiological classification already given does not correspond to the bacteriological division. The *symptomatology* (which includes the physical signs) is given in great detail, and certain phenomena are mentioned which are not found in recent text-books, such as the rhythmic lateral displacement of the heart which is often marked in medium-sized effusions. *Special forms* of pleurisy are next described. Emphasis is rightly laid on the value of cyto-diagnosis. It is now generally recognised that the presence of an increased number of lymphocytes is characteristic of primary tuberculous pleurisy and affords diagnostic data before the results of inoculation are available. The differential *diagnosis* is well given, and the various difficulties which arise are duly dwelt upon. After a few remarks on *prognosis* the *treatment* is adequately discussed. It will thus be seen that Dr. Edwards carries out his task with systematic thoroughness, while a full index adds to the value of the book.

*Lehrbuch der Ohrenheilkunde für Studierende und Aerzte.* (Text-book of Aural Therapeutics for Students and Practitioners.) By Dr. GEORG BOENNINGHAUS, Lecturer on Otology; Aural Surgeon at St. George's Hospital, Breslau. With 139 figures in the text and one coloured plate. Berlin: S. Karger; London: Williams and Norgate. 1908. Pp. 376. Price 9 marks 80 pfennig.

Dr. Boenninghaus commences with a description of otoscopy, and in this chapter there is the time-honoured illustration, so common in most books on otology, rhinology, or laryngology, which shows how the light is reflected from a mirror into a cavity. But there is one point mentioned here in connexion with the examination which is rarely considered in works of this description—namely, the examination of the membrana tympani with a powerful magnifying glass, that which is recommended as being most serviceable being one of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  centimetres and 13 diopters. The second chapter is on the parts seen, and the information to be derived therefrom in the otoscopical examination. This part of the book contains many points of interest, and shows an unusual minuteness of observation, together with an ability to record its outcome, as is seen in his consideration of the various angles of the malleus, the shape and sizes of the cone of light, the variations in the short process or in Shrapnell's membrane, or in the stria malleolaris, &c., all of which are carefully illustrated by means of diagrams. The functions and testing of the ear form the subject matter of the third chapter, in which there are many very interesting points which will well repay careful attention. We may especially mention the part in relation to accommodation. It is interesting to note that the tuning-forks recommended vary from C, having 16 vibrations, to C<sup>8</sup> in the treble, having 32,768 vibrations—a much higher tuning-fork than we are in the habit of using in this country. And in contra-distinction to the teaching of Bezold

the writer prefers to use the octaves of A, and we may here incidentally remark that in all probability in a noisy place the octaves of A are superior to those of C for the purposes of investigation. Here also we find an extremely valuable contribution to the differential diagnosis between middle-ear and labyrinthine deafness. Moreover, the methods of testing the integrity of the labyrinth are very clearly set forth.

The second part of the book, of which the fourth chapter forms the commencement, is devoted to the special pathology and therapeutics. The fifth chapter is concerned with diseases of the middle-ear, and begins with a description of its anatomy and physiology. In these two chapters there is but little that is novel. After a very excellent *résumé* of the present knowledge of otosclerosis, the sum total of the treatment, according to Dr. Boenninghaus, is massage, by which it is hoped to mobilise the stapes. The sixth chapter deals with diseases of the internal ear, the more modern treatment of attacking the vestibule for vertigo and the cochlea for tinnitus being recommended. The operative methods are dealt with in a separate chapter, and there is a very beautiful plate with 28 coloured illustrations of the tympanic membrane at the end of the book. There is so much in Dr. Boenninghaus's book which is novel, and such frequent evidence of an intimate acquaintance with his subject, that no aurist will be able to peruse it without pleasure and profit.

#### LIBRARY TABLE.

*The Sanitary Officer's Handbook of Practical Hygiene.* By C. F. WANHILL, Major R.A.M.C., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Conjoint Board of England, Assistant Professor of Hygiene at the Royal Army Medical College; and W. W. O. BEVERIDGE, D.S.O., Major R.A.M.C., M.B., C.M. Edin., D.P.H. Camb., F.C.S., Analyst to the Army Medical Advisory Board. London: Edward Arnold. 1909. Pp. 151. Price 5s. net.—This is a compact handbook of practical hygiene, written by two officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps with the object of supplying an epitome of the laboratory technique covering the examination of water-supplies, sewage, ventilation, calculation of diets, bacteriological problems, and the analysis of foods and beverages. The general scheme is that on which the training in the hygiene laboratories of the Royal Army Medical College is carried out, and which has been found to be satisfactory both for military purposes and for preparation for the Public Health Diploma examinations. The book is interleaved to allow of the reader adding further notes, and teaching of the subject is not attempted, it being assumed that the reader has had previous training and requires merely to refresh his memory with regard to details. Notwithstanding a few errors which appear, mainly of a typographical nature, and which may be regarded as inevitable in a first edition, we have formed a very favourable impression of the work; the authors handle their subjects well, the details of the technique of the various analyses are briefly but clearly described, and the condensation of matter is not unduly carried out.

*Principles and Practice of Operative Dentistry.* By JOHN SAYRE MARSHALL, M.D. Syr. Univ. Third edition. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. With 725 illustrations. 1909. Pp. 654. Price 21s. net.—The title of this book is a little misleading, inasmuch as a large portion consists in an account of the anatomy and pathology of the teeth somewhat out of proportion to the amount of room allotted to the description of operative measures. We have, however, no quarrel with the author on this score, because he has provided some most excellent reading. The anatomy, development, and histology of the teeth are dealt with in the first four chapters; the descriptions given are good and the same

may be said of the illustrations accompanying the text. There is a good account of the bacteriology of the mouth, while the section dealing with the pathology of the dental issues is all that one could desire in a text-book for students. The book, however, from the point of view of operative dentistry, is disappointing and leaves much to be desired. It is strange to find in a modern work the old turnkey advocated for extraction; we thought that such instruments were regarded as relics of the past.

*Geschichte der Laryngologie an der Universität Heidelberg, seit der Erfindung des Kehlkopfspiegels bis zum erste Oktober, 1908.* (*History of Laryngology at the University of Heidelberg from the Introduction of the Laryngeal Mirror up to October 1st, 1908.*) By Dr. JURASZ, Professor of Laryngology at Heidelberg. Würzburg: A. Stube. 1908. Pp. 54. Price 3 marks.—As the title implies, this is a short history of the laryngoscope from its introduction in Heidelberg up to the present time. The second chapter deals with the clinic from 1875 onwards, and contains amongst other things a list of the contributions to literature founded on the work of the clinic which have been published during this period. This is followed by a list of the lecturers and teachers, and the courses of study as they have varied from time to time. Chapter IV. relates to the question of a permanent laryngological clinic, and gives a *résumé* of the various discussions which have taken place in reference to this. The work is historically interesting.

#### JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES.

*The Journal of Physiology.* Edited by J. N. LANGLEY, Sc.D., F.R.S. Vol. XXXVIII., No. 6, July 2nd, 1909. London: Cambridge University Press Warehouse. Price 4s. 6d.—The contents of this number include the following:—1. The Coagulation of the Blood, Part II., the Actions of Snake Venoms, Peptone, and Leech Extract, by John Mellanby, M.D. Cantab., George Henry Lewes student. 2. On Degenerative Changes in the Nerve Endings in Striated Muscle, in the Nerve Plexus on Arteries, and in the Nerve Fibres of the Frog, by J. N. Langley, F.R.S. This number also contains the proceedings of the Physiological Society for May 15th and for June 5th, 1909, and the table of contents with list of authors who have contributed to the thirty-eighth volume. Dr. Mellanby's article is a long one, and we can only extract some part of the summary supplied by the author. He finds: (1) That the venoms of an Australian viper (*Notechis scutatus*) and an Indian viper (*Echis carinatus*) contain principles which generate fibrin ferment from prothrombin. They therefore coagulate any fibrinogen solution to which they may be added. Consequently their active principles are physiologically equivalent to a mixture of tissue kinase and calcium salt, and by analogy may be assumed to consist of substances containing kinase and calcium salt in union with one another. But owing to the paradoxical influence of potassium oxalate on these venoms (this salt largely increases their coagulating activities) the hypothesis is advanced that the active blood-coagulating agents contained in them consist of pure kinase and that the calcium salt necessary to work in conjunction with this kinase is present in the prothrombin or fibrinogen solution adsorbed by the protein. The author also finds (2) that the rapid injection of small quantities of these venoms results in extensive intravascular coagulation, this intravascular coagulation being due to the rapid production of fibrin ferment by the kinase contained in the injected venom and the consequent rapid production of fibrin. His other inferences are that (3) the slow injection of small quantities of these venoms results in the production of fluid blood (negative phase blood), for the ferment is only slowly formed and can be dealt with by the blood and tissues; (4) cobra venom, which does not contain an

antifibrin ferment, prevents the coagulation of blood by means of an antikinase; (5) peptone blood coagulates on adding to it birds' fibrin ferment (it does not contain a greater quantity of antifibrin ferment than normal blood derived from the same animal); (6) hirudin contains both an antikinase and an antifibrin ferment.

*British Journal of Inebriety.*—The July number of this journal contains an article on the Scientific Study of Alcohol and Alcoholism, which gives a brief account of the organised efforts that are being made in this and other countries to promote the study of the alcohol question on scientific lines. The facts set out in the article, which in view of the London meeting of the International Congress on Alcoholism has a very timely interest, will come as somewhat of a revelation to many persons who have been accustomed to associate the literature of this subject with the outpourings of the teetotal orator. It will be an agreeable surprise to them to discover to what a large extent the temper and methods of scientific inquiry have been brought into the investigation of this most important bio-social problem. In England and in several continental countries societies have been founded, mainly under medical auspices, for the special study of alcoholism, and much valuable work has been recorded in the journals published by these bodies. The *British Journal of Inebriety*, which is the organ of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, has done good service in this way, as has also the quarterly journal issued by the sister society in the United States. In Germany and Switzerland, where the temperance movement has always had a stronger scientific inspiration, much attention has been given to investigations concerning the physiological action of alcohol; and many of the leading authorities in the scientific world of Germany are to be found amongst the contributors to the special journals devoted to the study of alcoholism, such as the *Internationale Monatsschrift zur Erforschung des Alkoholismus* and the quarterly publications, *Der Alkoholismus* and *Die Alkoholfrage*. The medical and social aspects of intemperance also receive very full consideration in other scientific periodicals. To be useful to the students, all this voluminous and scattered literature needs to be classified and sifted, and this is one of the functions which has been undertaken by the recently formed "Bureau International contre l'Alcoolisme," which owes its origin to the zeal and energy of Professor R. Herod. These evidences of a genuinely scientific spirit in the study of this question will be welcomed the more cordially because they contrast so strongly with the fanatical temper which up to recently was the characteristic of a good many temperance reformers.

*Man.*—The June number of *Man* describes some recent finds of ancient flint implements, and contains a report of an interview between the Prime Minister and a deputation which urged the necessity of establishing an Imperial Bureau of Anthropology within the Royal Anthropological Institute. At this interview, which took place on March 11th, Professor William Ridgeway, in explaining the object of the deputation, said that not only would some knowledge of anthropology be valuable to administrators in the Indian, colonial, and consular services, but there was evidence of its being a factor in commercial success. Mr. Asquith, in his reply, said that tuition in anthropology must be given by the universities, and there was no present prospect of the Government giving financial assistance. We commented on this matter in THE LANCET of April 10th, p. 1055, and adduced arguments showing the value of such a bureau.

*Caledonian Medical Journal.*—In the opening article of the July number of the *Caledonian Medical Journal* Colonel Kenneth Macleod, I.M.S. (retired), narrates some reminiscences of his connexion with the Durham County Asylum