

of temperature "as indicating a particular physical condition of that body while heat is the agency to which this condition is due," which is true enough, though it applies just as well to colour and light, convey information worthy of being recorded in formal language?

The "Elementary Study of Chemistry" is intended for much older students than either of the foregoing, and is an introduction to the serious study of chemistry as a separate science. The authors do not lay claim to any great originality in the treatment of their subject, and in this we must concur. At the same time, the fact that it resembles other elementary text-books does not detract from its merits. The authors have done their work thoughtfully and well. The matter is well arranged, the style is simple and concise, the paper and printing are good, and the illustrations are numerous and well executed.

As in the volume just referred to, we are soon confronted with definitions. "Physical changes," we are told, "are those which do not involve a change in the composition of the matter," but we are not told what "composition" means. "Chemical changes involve a change in the composition of matter." How would isomeric change be classified—say the conversion of ammonium cyanate into urea—according to this definition? Why attempt to define where there is no clear boundary, for it is not always easy to say where physical change ends and chemical change begins?

Apart from this we have nothing but praise for the book. The information is well up to date. There are suggestive chapters on "solutions," "chemical equilibrium," and the new learning; and if the teaching is a little didactic in places and leaves many obvious questions unanswered, it must be ascribed to the highly condensed treatment of the subject.

J. B. C.

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

- (1) *The Control of a Scourge, or, How Cancer is Curable.* By Charles P. Childe. Pp. ix+299. (London: Methuen and Co., n.d.) Price 7s. 6d. net.
- (2) *The Essential Similarity of Innocent and Malignant Tumours. A Study of Tumour Growth.* By Charles W. Cathcart. Pp. xii+79; thirty-eight plates. (Bristol: John Wright and Co.; London: Simpkin Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Ltd., 1907.) Price 9s. 6d. net.
- (3) *Guy's Hospital Reports.* Edited by F. J. Steward and Herbert French. Vol. ix., being vol. xiv. of the third series. Pp. 373. (London: J and A. Churchill, 1906.)

(1) IN "The Control of a Scourge" Mr. Childe deals with the cancer problem particularly in relation to prevention and cure. Whether the subject could not have been dealt with in a quarter of the space with equally satisfactory results as regards the general public is a question, many of the details introduced being quite unnecessary for the average man or woman to know. What is really wanted is the broadest issue of a leaflet indicating the "danger signals" warning of the development of a cancerous

growth. The medical profession has naturally shrunk from doing this, savouring, as it might seem, of unprofessional advertising; but the importance of the subject warrants this being done, and there is a good precedent in the case of tuberculosis. Mr. Childe's main theme is that cancer usually indicates itself at an early stage by certain signs—"danger signals"—a lump, a sore, an abnormal discharge, &c., and that the public should be educated to understand the importance of these, so that they may seek advice at the earliest possible moment; and, this being so, cure would be possible in a much larger proportion of cases than at present. For cancer is at first a local disease; in four-fifths of the cases, at least, it is situated in regions eminently accessible for surgical operation, and complete removal while in the local stage would mean cure.

To the layman who wants to know all about cancer, and to the general practitioner who desires to be in a position to discuss the cancer problem with laymen, the book can be thoroughly recommended.

(2) The second work is for the professional reader, and is illustrated with some beautiful plates. It is, of course, admitted that there is no sharp line of demarcation between innocent and malignant growths, but we should take exception to the unqualified statement (p. 71) that "the same tumour may be at one time innocent and at another time malignant." Even now the minuter characters of the structure of neoplasms are by no means completely worked out, and it is surely previous to assert that tumours having an identity of structure may at one time be innocent and at another malignant. In the case of some of the infectious warts, &c., they should be regarded as infective granulomata rather than as true neoplasms. If not, it would be quite as logical to classify the granulomatous new formations of tubercule, syphilis, &c., as neoplasms.

(3) This volume of the Guy's Hospital reports contains a number (sixteen) of interesting papers, many of which have, however, been published elsewhere. Among others, Dr. F. Taylor discusses the chronic relapsing pyrexia of Hodgkin's disease, Drs. Bainbridge and Beddard discuss the mechanism of secretion by the renal tubules in the frog, and Dr. Buzzard and Mr. Allen describe observations on the effects produced by choline upon animals. The volume contains much matter of scientific value, and to old Guy's men the "school" news which is included will add to its interest.

R. T. H.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Ightham; the Story of a Kentish Village and its Surroundings. By F. J. Bennett. Pp. viii+158; illustrated. (London: The Homeland Association, Ltd., 1907.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE area described lucidly in this volume is one of the most interesting in the country to the archæologist, the geologist, and the general student of nature. It comprises some sixteen square miles north of Tonbridge, lying between Maidstone and Sevenoaks, and under the unremitting observation of Mr. Benjamin Harrison, the White of Ightham, has probably been surveyed in greater detail than any other similar rural