

surgical technique by Prof. C. H. Frazier, a full bibliography, and a splendid index.

One point remains for criticism. The work presented is a typical example of that association of animal experimentation with practical medicine and surgery which has made such definite headway in recent years, especially in America. It is perhaps beside the point that in this particular case the contribution made by the experimentalist is rather meagre of practical indications. There can, however, be little doubt that the practice of restricting experimentation to one species of animal, generally, as in the present instance, the dog, is a dangerous technique if it is proposed to apply the results in detail to man. The truth of the matter seems to be that while the end which different animals will attain is the same (*i.e.* they will so far as may be restore themselves to the normal state or somehow or other get round their difficulties), the means and detailed mechanism of restoration and compensation will likely vary widely in various species; they are, of course, relatively immaterial to the individual concerned.

A. E. B.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society. New Series. Vol. xvii. Pp. 497. (London: Williams and Norgate 1917.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

NOTWITHSTANDING the war, the Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society suffer no diminution in bulk. During the thirty-eighth session thirteen papers have been given, and two symposia have taken place. One of the latter, on the ethical principles of social reconstruction, deals directly with the war and some of its issues. In the other symposium the question is discussed whether the materials of sense—or “presented sensations,” as G. E. Moore prefers to phrase it—are affections of the mind.

The Dean of St. Paul's writes suggestively of some phases of the philosophy of Plotinus. M. Ginsberg gives a critical account of Malebranche's theory of knowledge. C. Lloyd Morgan, discussing fact and truth, and distinguishing facts of appearance from facts of knowledge, points out that the former are facts *for* knowledge. The static nature of truth-structure and of fact is repudiated. C. E. M. Joad deals with the onslaughts of the pragmatists and the new idealists on the theory of monism. Relations are real, external, and experienced. The fundamental objections to monism are logical. Bernard Bosanquet discusses the function of the State in furthering the unity of mankind, but it may be questioned whether a “communal” mind actually exists. A. N. Whitehead emphasises the idea that logic is the organising principle by which observation is elaborated into science. C. D. Broad criticises Hume's handling of miracle, and concludes that miracles might, but do not, happen. W. A. Pickard-Cambridge writes of the relation of value to our consciousness. The various subjective criteria offered us are inadequate or erroneous. We have innate, direct, unique knowledge of value. G. Dawes Hicks attacks the problem of realism. Matter and mind are disparate

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entities. The *esse* of sensible objects is not merely *percipi*. There is no distinction between the mind and its states. The mind *is* its states. J. S. Mackenzie emphasises the dynamic value of the view that the universe is an intelligible whole. Miss L. S. Stebbing also contends that the conception of concrete unity is valid and stimulating.

H. Wildon Carr's presidential address inquires into the nature of recognition as a modified cognition, and also discusses racial or instinctive recognition. The volume is suggestive and stimulating, and we regret that space does not allow of more extended notice.

W. L. S.

Aids to Rational Therapeutics with U.S.A. Pharmacopoeia Equivalents. By Dr. R. W. Leftwich. Pp. x+233. (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, 1918.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

In many books on the treatment of disease the plan adopted is to discuss each disease and to indicate its treatment. This leads to much needless repetition, for in many instances the same general treatment may be applied to many different diseases. If, for example, we take the case of the infectious fevers, almost the same line of treatment may be adopted for all, with here and there a slight modification or addition. The author of this book has acted upon this principle: he divides diseases into some forty groups, discussing the general treatment applicable to each group, and then adding any special method indicated for any particular case. Thus, selecting at random, we have such groups as the catarrhal, the anæmic, the abscess, the malarial, the rheumatic, the cardiac, the vitamine insufficiency, etc. The grouping seems to have been particularly well done, and the information given in almost all cases is accurate and sufficient. Thus that rare disease, rat-bite fever, and its treatment with salvarsan are mentioned. Throughout, typical prescriptions are given, and, in addition, dietetic, electrical, and other forms of treatment are described as required. By adopting this plan the author has succeeded in compiling in a comparatively small space a complete system of treatment, and we believe that the book will be of considerable service to the young practitioner. In an appendix some useful hints are given on dealing with patients in private practice.

R. T. H.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

The Profits of Research.

A NOTIFICATION issued by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, entitled “Notes on the Conditions under which Grants are made to Students-in-Training and to Individual Workers,” states that the Department, with the object of encouraging research into fundamental problems of pure science, is prepared to make grants to workers in educational institutions and elsewhere. I think the