difficult problems. Extreme care must be taken not to raise the dosage because of the risk of suppressing possible concomitant syphilitic infection. Many workers preferred to use sulphathiazole alone, or a combination of sulphathiazole with a lower dosage of penicillin, because of this risk. In the few cases in which a higher dosage of penicillin had been used, because the patients were also infected with syphilis, results were inconclusive and treatment failure did occur.

The low incidence of male rectal infection Dr. Nicol had mentioned in this paper was based on figures quoted in the literature. He did not pretend to have experience comparable to that of Dr. Harkness, and it might well be that rectal infection in the male was more common. He was interested to hear that St. Mark's Hospital was using a modified Graeme Anderson proctoscope of a smaller size. He had also tried a smaller proctoscope with internal illumination, and a satisfactory view of the rectal wall was not obtained. He noted Dr. Morton's experience in Germany with interest. In that country rectal testing had been used extensively. The last speaker had asked why he had obtained such a small percentage of positive rectal cultures. The main difficulty was that the plate or slope was so often overgrown by colonies of B. Coli. Clements and Hughes in their paper stated they had used various selective media without success. It was best to use a medium on which gonococci grew well using the oxidase test, so that any oxidase positive colonies could be picked off the plate from among the colonies of other organisms.

BOOK REVIEWS

AN INTRODUCTION TO DERMATOLOGY
By G. H. Percival


The eleventh edition of this book, which was previously edited by Dr. Percival in conjunction with its originator, Sir Norman Walker, is in reality a new work. Many developments have occurred in dermatology since the first edition of the work appeared in 1899. The opportunity has been taken in the present edition of rewriting the script to incorporate the many developments which have been gradually added to the previous editions. In doing so Dr. Percival has succeeded in maintaining the original traditions and methods, but at the same time he has produced the most compact and valuable contribution to the speciality of dermatology. Special notice should be taken of the very extensive consideration of the histological changes associated with the common skin diseases; these are magnificently illustrated with coloured plates and they are a feature of the book which at once singles it out in comparison with other works on the subject.

The methods of treatment are clearly discussed, and details of the technique employed for the suitable treatment of lesions is outlined in full. It is impossible to include anything beyond the more common diseases in a work of this size, which only claims to be an introduction to the subject, and as such it attains a very high standard and should be a most popular addition to the library of dermatological works. Both the author and the publisher deserve credit for the standard which has been achieved.

D.E.

COMMON SKIN DISEASES
By A. C. Roxburgh


The recent advances in dermatology have been included in this eighth edition of Roxburgh's popular handbook on skin diseases. The extent of its popularity is evidenced by the appearance of a new edition at so early a date. This edition maintains the characteristics of previous ones, and is well produced with clear printing and good paper. Several new illustrations have been added, and the text has been very considerably revised. Penicillin is considered in greater detail as a result of the wider experience in the uses of this compound since the appearance of the last edition. The treatment of lupus vulgaris with calciferol is included, and reference is made to the dangers of local sulphonamide treatment. The text has been enlarged by reference to less common conditions, such as adenoma sebaceum, erysipeloïd, acrodermatitis perstans, ticks, and jelly-fish stings. The work is clearly written and presents a very fair picture of the more common skin diseases; consideration of treatment has been very considerably increased, but it is unfortunate that no clear indication is given of the form of treatment which might be especially applicable to any particular type of skin disease.

The work remains one of the most popular short books on dermatology, and it will serve both the student and practitioner as a useful introduction to the subject.

D.E.