

is room for an up-to-date book on surgical diagnosis ; however this may be, we do not agree with him when he says that "surgical diagnosis up to the present time is not dealt with in any work that claims to represent the most recent surgical knowledge." We think it very efficiently dealt with in Erichsen, Treves, and other works. In giving the treatment of Colles' fracture the following appears : "A plaster-of-Paris dressing is often employed, but excellent results are obtained by using no splints at all." The latter part of this is undoubtedly true, but we think it a great pity that the former statement should be made, for the inference is that plaster-of-Paris would be correct treatment but unnecessary. Now, as the chief seriousness of this accident is the danger of long-lasting stiffness and painfulness of fingers and wrist, and as this can be avoided by allowing free movement of flexion and extension, abduction and adduction, we would consider plaster-of-Paris dressing a plan of treatment to be strongly condemned.

In the chapter on tumors of the scalp, many of the characteristic points which would enable one to distinguish between a sebaceous cyst and a fatty tumor are not mentioned ; and it is stated that an error in diagnosis is of no consequence, as the treatment of both is extirpation. For a book dealing specially with diagnosis we think this rather weak. A special chapter is devoted to the X rays. In this a very good account is given of the history of the discovery, the apparatus, and its uses in surgical diagnosis. The index is very well arranged and most comprehensive, but the context, although containing many good practical features, is capable of considerable improvement.

PATHOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE. A Practical Manual for the Pathological Laboratory. By Frank Burr-Mallory, A.M., M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, Harvard University Medical School ; Assistant Pathologist to the Boston City Hospital ; Pathologist to the Children's Hospital and to the Carney Hospital ; and James Homer Wright, A.M., M.D., Director of the Laboratory of the Massachusetts General Hospital ; Instructor in Pathology, Harvard University Medical School. With 105 illustrations. Toronto : J. A. Carveth & Co, Agents. Philadelphia : W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut St. 1897.

The student and the enquiring practitioner have long felt the want of a guide which would point out the safe paths in the shifting sands of pathological technique. Such a guide we have in this volume. A practical manual is at last practical. Outlined in a common sense way, the student is not bewildered with a mass of mere detail and assertion, but language and reason enables him to grasp the essential points. Dealing with all essential points, the greatest of accuracy is shown. While there is room for improvement, we do not hesitate to warmly recommend it to all students, and to practitioners who wish to further their studies in pathology.

Part I. deals with Post-mortem Examinations on adult and infant in a clear and practical way ; lacking only the fuller details of the external examination.