Tuberculosis: a discussion of phthisiogenesis, immunology, pathologic physiology, diagnosis, and treatment. Francis Marion Pottenger. St. Louis, Mo.: C. V. Mosby, 1948. Pp. 597. (Illustrated.) $12.00.

This volume is a timely synthesis of current clinical knowledge on human tuberculosis, a harmonious conception built from accepted facts and plausible hypotheses.

The author's vast experience as a professor of medicine and a phthisiologist backed with 50 years of practice shows in this work through a clever condensation, in well-balanced chapters, of this varied and extensive subject, through a great consistency of thought and a shrewd application of scientific criticism. Also noteworthy is the lucidity of presentation and style. Those are several reasons why the reading of the book is captivating and highly suggestive of fertile ideas and research topics. A few recurring statements serve the evident purpose of focusing attention on essential facts.

The author rightly stresses the necessity of avoiding fruitless conjectures as well as reinvestigating those theories about to be reckoned as dogmas.

He lingers neither on historical backgrounds nor on past experimental works. However, on the one hand, a well-informed reader feels sure that every line relies upon the soundest of fundamental knowledge, both clinical and experimental; on the other hand, he who is less acquainted with the field retains the impression of having assimilated most of the essential basic notions because Dr. Pottenger has so cleverly impregnated his interpretation of clinical findings with accepted experimental conclusions.

The author is to be praised for insisting upon phthisiogenesis. Too many physicians take to phthisiology as a specialty without sufficient knowledge of that aspect. It is the basis of any reliable clinical or epidemiological study. Three chapters are given to reinfection with its specific and nonspecific factors. Whether reinfections are endogenous or exogenous is judiciously discussed, and the grounds from which the author explains the frequency of endogenous reinfections oblige to no mere thinking and outgrow a plain clinical interest: the very strategy of the fight against tuberculosis is here at stake.

To be noted are two valuable chapters on the visceral neurology of pulmonary tuberculosis and a short one on vaccination. Vaccination with nonvirulent bacilli would have two advantages, one positive, the other negative. "It would protect the host from infection with virulent bacilli but it would not furnish a focus of virulent bacilli from which metastases would take place and cause reinfection tuberculosis."

Every chapter ends with an abundant basic bibliography, mostly clinical. Concerning vaccination with BCG, it seems that the author, in view of present-day trends, could have given a well-deserved importance to an angle of antituberculous prophylaxis that enjoys so increasing an interest.

We would recommend this book to the phthisiologist as a vade mecum; to the practicing physician as an easily readable treatise comprising the sum total of today's fundamental knowledge along with the most modern clinical guiding principles on tuberculosis; to the research worker and to the epidemiologist as an almost complete source of physiological, pathological, and clinical data, absolutely necessary for intelligently carrying on research on tuberculosis or organizing the fight against it with logical and coordinate planning. Such an important subject must not suffer from departmentalization.

The magnitude of the problem calls for an equal magnitude in the study of the disease and the fight against it. A synthesis like Dr. Pottenger's is to be acknowledged as an invaluable contribution to that end.

ARMAND FRAPPIER
University of Montreal

Animal genetics and medicine. Hans Gruneberg. New York-London: Paul B. Hoeber, 1947. Pp. xii + 296. (Illustrated.) $5.50.

Written by an English scientist well trained in fundamental genetics and actively contributing to genetic research, this book is an attempt to aid contact and collaboration between animal genetics and medicine.

Two primary aims have been the demonstration that there exists a vast array of inherited conditions in animals, some of which are closely akin to human diseases, and all of which present problems the solution of which will aid directly or indirectly in the understanding of human diseases; and the demonstration that the etiology of these conditions can be approached with methods which would be impracticable in man.

The material concerning the value of inbred animals and the importance of animals over human beings in the study of disease is excellent and easily digested. When Dr. Gruneberg writes about genes (Chap. III), the book becomes fairly heavy for a medical man, and it is doubtful if an American doctor, combining research with practice, as many do, would go much further through the book.

The study of inherited diseases in animals is a new branch of medical science. The author hopes to convince a few more people of the value of a new tool for etiological studies. It seems unfortunate that material from a field such as cancer research, where the value of the animal in etiological studies is well recognized, was omitted.

The geneticist will find the book interesting and excellent.

GEORGE W. WOOLLEY
Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory

Histopathologic technic. R. D. Lillie. Philadelphia-Toronto: Blakiston, 1948. Pp. xi + 300. $4.75.

Histopathologic technic is commendably not an encyclopedic compilation of histologic and cytologic technical methods. It is devoted, for the most part, to descriptions of methods which in the author's laboratory have been found to give consistent results. The complexity of tissues and the influences of diverse physiological states in themselves make fixing and staining procedures behave capriciously. Such variables cannot be adequately controlled; however, the author has striven to include those methods which depend for constancy of results on con-