Established facts are analysed mathematically; the many dependent variables by subjection to nomographic treatment are brought into graphical relationship and the whole integrated by a rational synthesis.

Interest in the volume is enhanced by a study of the problems of adaptation both in health and disease.

Magician and Leech: a Study in the Beginnings of Medicine, with Special Reference to Ancient Egypt. By Warren R. Dawson. Pp. xiii + 159 + 4 plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

Mr. Dawson, although not a medical man, has devoted much time and thought to the elucidation of the medical texts of ancient Egypt, as the pages of the periodicals of various learned bodies bear witness. In this little book, while a general account of Egyptian medical knowledge and practices forms the central theme, the author's object is to show, on one hand, how closely allied was Egyptian art to primitive magical ideas, out of which indeed it had grown, and on the other hand, to how great an extent medical science was promoted by the special conditions which prevailed in Egypt. Of these, perhaps the most important was the practice of mummification, which gave the Egyptians an opportunity of acquiring an exact knowledge of human anatomy.

Mr. Dawson concludes his account with examples of the survival of Egyptian theory and drugs in later medicine. An interesting example of a persistent belief is that of the therapeutic value of mice. The eating of a skinned mouse is prescribed in a papyrus of 1400 B.C., but remains of mice have been discovered in the alimentary canals of children in predynastic graves more than six thousand years old, and they have been prescribed as a remedy for whooping-cough for children within living memory in England.

Recent Advances in Physiology. By Prof. C. Lovatt Evans. (Recent Advances Series.) Third edition. Pp. xiii + 403. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1928.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

The fact that this volume has reached its third edition in three years is a good recommendation of its value. It is, in fact, an excellent introduction to advanced physiology and gives a readable account of recent work on certain aspects of the subject. The chapters have been rearranged; two have been added on excitability and chronaxie and on the nervous impulse, and three have been omitted, two on the blood and one on the work of the heart. In spite of these alterations, the number of pages is slightly greater than in the second edition. Whether the present order is the best is somewhat open to question, since the new chapter on excitability and chronaxie is the first, and this is a subject which is one of the most difficult for the novice to follow. A very good account of the work of Pavlov and his pupils on conditioned reflexes is given, and serves as a useful introduction to the English translations of this work which are now available.

The book is well up-to-date and remarkably free from errors; we note, however, in the chapter on active principles of some endocrine organs, an absence of a reference to the international standard of posterior lobe of pituitary gland, and also that the international standard of insulin is stated to contain 24 units per mgm. instead of 8, some confusion between 'rabbit' and 'clinical' units being evident. This is a readable volume and should be in the hands of all those taking an advanced course of physiology.

A History of Pathology. By Prof. Esmond R. Long. Pp. xxiv + 291 + 49 plates. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1928.) 22*s.* 6*d.* net.

Prof. Long, who holds the chair of pathology in the University of Chicago, has given in this little volume the first definite and systematic account in English of the history of his subject. The work is divided into twelve chapters devoted respectively to the pathology of antiquity, Galen and the Middle Ages, the pathology of the Renaissance, the seventeenth century, Morgagni and the eighteenth century, pathology in France, England, Vienna, and Berlin respectively in the early part of the nineteenth century, pathological histology and the last third of the nineteenth century, the rise of bacteriology and immunology, and experimental and chemical pathology. An appendix contains a list of the classical works on the subject from Hippocrates to Cohnheim. The book, which contains a vast amount of information presented in an attractive manner, is illustrated by numerous portraits and figures from the older works on pathology.

Miscellany.

The Principles and Practice of the Dilution Method of Sewage Disposal. By Dr. W. E. Adeney. (Cambridge Public Health Series.) Pp. xii + 161. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1928.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

When soluble organic matter is discharged into a river, seventy to eighty per cent undergoes complete oxidation into carbon dioxide through the agency of bacteria, the remainder for the most part being converted into humic substances as by-products of bacterial activity, and only a relatively small proportion going to build up the bacteria themselves. The ammonia formed in the process is finally oxidised by bacteria to nitrites and nitrates. If, however, there is insufficient oxygen present in the water for these changes to be completed, noxious products are produced and the ammonia remains unoxidised.

The quantity and rate at which oxygen is used during these changes is described with many examples from Dr. Adeney's own experimental results; the researches of the author and his co-workers on the rate at which waters dissolve oxygen from the atmosphere under open-air conditions are clearly presented.

It is possible to estimate the extent to which the waters of a river can deal with the sewage of a neighbouring community, having regard to the