Short Reviews.

Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology : a Key for the Identification of Organisms of the Class Schizomycetes. By David H. Bergey, assisted by a Committee of the Society of American Bacteriologists, Francis C. Harrison, Robert S. Breed, Bernard W. Hammer, Frank M. Huntoon, with an Index by Robert S. Breed. Third edition. Pp. xviii + 589. (London : Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1930.) 27*s.* net.

THIS publication, which has now reached its third edition, is an extension and elaboration of the admirable and painstaking work of the Committee on Characterisation and Classification of the Society of American Bacteriologists (1917, 1920). When one considers the labour involved in a compilation of this nature, it would be agreeable if one could be persuaded that the value of the results obtained is commensurate with the effort expended. But even the most cursory examination of the pages of this manual suggest that too much is taken for granted in the published descriptions of various micro-organisms.

When, for example, one finds organisms of almost precisely the same morphological, cultural, and biochemical characters and of serological identity classified, not only under separate species but even under separate genera (*Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Phytomonas* spp. ; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Phytomonas aptata* ; *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* and *Shigella pfaffi*), one wonders where the authors' taxonomic conceptions may eventually lead us. The closely related species, *B. whitmori* and *B. mallei*, are, moreover, included in separate genera (*Flavobacterium* and *Pfeifferella* respectively), and the genus *Shigella*, in addition to *S. pfaffi* mentioned above, is made to include a rough variant of *Salmonella gallinarum* (*Shigella jeffersonii*). Turning to the genus *Salmonella* itself, one finds that practically no attention has been paid to the mass of brilliant and elaborate research made in recent years that has thrown so much light upon the complex serological relations of this extremely natural and self-contained group of bacteria.

A comprehensive and critical revision of the text would appear to be necessary when the next edition of this work is contemplated.

R. ST. J.-B.

Textbook of Logic. By Prof. A. Wolf. Pp. 407. (London : George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1930.) 10*s.* net.

THE best text-book on a special subject is not always written by the scholar with the greatest reputation in that subject. It is gratifying, therefore, that a logician of Prof. Wolf's measure should have written a text-book which can unhesitatingly be put in the first rank.

Logic in the past has too often erred on the side of mechanical formalism and remained to the student out of all relation to common sense and practical needs. In the author's own words, it has become "the recruiting place for the sadly depleted philosophy classes". Prof. Wolf, whose very position at the London School of Economics keeps him in touch with most of the sociological and humanistic developments of the day, is emphatically alive to the practical needs of the student and scholar alike. His close contact with social science makes his treatment of logic fruitful in the application to modern types of argument, while the style is lucid and pleasant, and the treatment, in spite of its full dose of symbolism and technical instruction, distinctly attractive.

The exercises, given at the end of the book and therefore not impeding the continuity of the argument, will enable the student to apply the sound principle of the author that logic, no more than algebra or geometry, can be mastered by reading alone.

Pioneers of Public Health : the Story of some Benefactors of the Human Race. By M. E. M. Walker. Pp. xv + 270 + 23 plates. (Edinburgh and London : Oliver and Boyd, 1930.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE pioneers whom Mrs. Walker has chosen to commemorate are the twenty-one eminent men whose names adorn the walls of the new building of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a drawing of which forms the frontispiece. As Sir Humphry Rolleston points out in the foreword, twelve of the pioneers are British, four are from the United States, three from Central Europe, and two from France. Among the various departments of public health, epidemiology and State medicine are represented by Thomas Sydenham, Lemuel Shattuck, Sir Edwin Chadwick, William Farr, Sir John Simon, and Hermann Biggs ; naval and military hygiene by James Lind, Sir John Pringle, and Edmund Alexander Parkes ; preventive medicine by Johann Peter Frank, Edward Jenner, Max von Pettenkofer, Major Walter Reed, and General William Crawford Gorgas ; bacteriology by Pasteur, Lister, and Koch ; and protozoology by Surgeon-Major Timothy Richards, Lewis Alphonse Laveran, Sir Patrick Manson, and Sir William Leishman. A concise but sympathetic account of each pioneer is accompanied by his portrait and followed by a brief list of references.

L'Esprit et ses maladies. Par Marcel Nathan. (Bibliothèque générale illustrée, 15.) Pp. 80 + 60 planches. (Paris : Les Éditions Rieder, 1930.) 20 francs.

DR. NATHAN provides us with an excellent summary of the prevailing French attitude towards the mind and its diseases. He divides his small book up into three sections : the brain and the mind, the so-called organic psychoses, and the so-called functional psychoses. To include mania and melancholia as functional or non-organic conditions in the present state of our knowledge is scarcely justifiable. They are probably of metabolic origin. The best part of the book is the illustrations, some of which are actual photographs of patients, while others are reproductions of well-known pictures, by various Continental artists.