The Urine, the Gastric Contents, the Common Poisons and the Milk. By J. W. HOLLAND, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Publishers.

A laboratory manual called the eighth revised and enlarged edition. The reviewer has never seen or heard of any of the earlier editions. The book is evidently intended only for local use. It is out of date as well as old-fashioned in almost every particular. OTTO FOLIN.

The Chemical Constitution of Proteins. By R. H. ADERS PLIMMER, D.Sc., Assistant Professor of Physiological Chemistry in and Fellow of University College, London. London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green & Co. 1908. In two parts: I. xii+100 pp. Price, $1.00. II. xii+66 pp. Price, $0.80.

This is the second instalment of the timely series of monographs on biochemistry, edited by R. H. A. Plimmer and F. G. Hopkins, the first of which (On the Nature of Enzymes) has already been reviewed in these columns. A casual glance at the list of papers in the current journals on physiological chemistry suffices to emphasize the unusual interest which centers at the present time in the study of the proteins. Dr. Plimmer's monograph deals with certain aspects of the subject. It includes, incidentally, an historical survey of the attempts to unravel the constitution of these nitrogenous compounds; a detailed description of the protein derivatives, or cleavage products, now known; a consideration of the analytical methods which have been introduced; and a review of the synthetic work which has been developed so remarkably by Curtius and E. Fischer and their co-workers. The general character of the proteins is a topic reserved for subsequent monographs.

The parts devoted to the chemical constitution of the "units of the protein molecule" or the discovery and synthesis of the amino acids form a valuable compilation, the usefulness of which is increased by an extensive bibliography. One may question whether it is worth while to reprint the details of elaborate methods of investigation such as Fischer's "ester" method, in such a publication. Research workers must inevitably consult the original descriptions of these processes. A little retrenchment would have made it possible to include the two parts within one cover, without duplication of index, etc. Indeed, the reviewer can find no adequate justification for printing a monograph in the present extravagant form of two small parts, the total cost of which (especially if new editions are repeatedly issued as promised) involves considerable unnecessary expense for the series. The object of the editors to make it possible to secure a full and current account of each topic at "a moderate outlay" unfortunately seems likely to be defeated.

In the data on the elementary composition of proteins (I, p. 2) the range of nitrogen content is, as usual, given too low (15–17 per cent. instead of 15–19 per cent.). The name of T. B Osborne might appropriately have been included among the investigators of the sulphur in