

Book Notices

THE X-RAY ATLAS OF THE SYSTEMIC ARTERIES OF THE BODY. By H. C. Orrin, O.B.E., F.R.C.S. Cloth. Price, \$5. Pp. 91, with illustrations. New York: William Wood & Company, 1920.

This atlas of arteries in situ is a welcome contribution to anatomic illustration. It shows the arteries throughout the body in twenty-one roentgenograms, of which two are so prepared that they can readily be converted into six cards for stereoscopic study covering all regions. Twenty roentgenograms were made from the body of a full term fetus after injection of the arteries. This was necessary because suitable adult material was not available. One roentgenogram was made from a soldier's hand, amputated after the arm had been shattered by a shell. The clearness and definition with which even the small arteries and anastomoses stand out is a revelation of the possibilities of roentgen-ray photography. A brief text, tabular in character, is arranged for convenient reference in the study of the plates. Some features of the anatomy of the arteries which can be studied to especial advantage in these plates, and which will make the book appreciated, are the relative richness of arterial supply of different regions and structures, anastomoses and collateral circulation, and relations to bones and joints. Incidentally, the state of ossification of the bones at the time of birth is well shown. It is to be hoped that subsequent editions may be enlarged by the inclusion of a full series of plates representing all the arteries of the adult. Surgeons will appreciate the atlas because the relations shown are accurate and reliable—qualities inherent in roentgenograms. Such plates might well be mounted and exhibited in dissecting laboratories so that the study of them might supplement dissection.

LABORATORY COURSE IN HISTOLOGY. By Adolph Elwyn, A.M., Assistant Professor of Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and Oliver S. Strong, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neurology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. Cloth. Price, \$2.50. Pp. 235. New York: Physicians and Surgeons Book Company, 1920.

This little manual, of 118 blank and 118 printed pages, represents the laboratory instructions already tried out in the course in histology at Columbia University. The blank pages are to permit modification or amplification of any part of the course, being intended for notes regarding supplemental material, either fresh or in special preparations, introduced by instructors. The printed pages contain directions for study of the sections issued to the classes at Columbia, with only enough description to secure proper orientation—the amount being necessarily greater in the part of the book devoted to the nervous system (sixty-three pages). The student's attention is guided and directed, but he is not told what he sees; rather, he is asked to see for himself, the idea evidently being that the power of seeing for himself is useful and necessary in a physician, that it merits cultivation, and that it is more worth having than a tendency toward passive reception of observations made by some one else. The preparations indicated are well selected and well arranged, and the content sufficient to meet the needs of medical students in the introductory required course in histology, provided the amplification suggested is utilized in the study of fresh material. The method requires good instructors, and should produce good results with students of capacity.

MENTAL DISORDERS BRIEFLY DESCRIBED AND CLASSIFIED, WITH A FEW REMARKS ON TREATMENT AND PREVENTION. By Charles B. Thompson, M.D., Medical Director of the Mental Hygiene Society of Maryland. Paper. Pp. 48. Baltimore: Warwick & York, 1920.

This outline offers a modern classification of mental diseases. The author follows Freud closely in his discussion of the causes of mental diseases, explicable in psychologic terms. The elation depressive oscillation or manic-depressive psychosis, and the discussion of the causes of the dementia praecox reaction are well done, even in the limited space allotted to them; still, the syllabus is brief enough to be inaccurate in places. For instance, no mention is made of the pupillary changes in the description of the physical symptoms of paralytic dementia. The syllabus is intended to serve as a guide to beginners in the field of psychiatry.

DIATHERMY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. By Claude Saberton, M.D., Hon. Radiologist to the Harrogate Infirmary. Cloth. Price, \$2.25 net. Pp. 138, with 33 illustrations. New York: Paul B. Hoeber, 1920.

The first five chapters of this book are devoted to the explanation of the principles concerning high frequency currents, their generation, and their medical and surgical application. This presentation, while not accurate and complete enough for the expert, is certainly not sufficiently perspicuous to the layman. In his enthusiasm, the author goes so far as to mention diathermy as a valuable medical aid in the treatment of neurasthenia. It is doubtful whether pathologists and clinicians will accept his use of the term "fibrositis" as applied to various inflammatory affections of the interstitial fibrous tissues of the body in place of "muscular rheumatism." In the chapters on surgical diathermy the bipolar method, using two active electrodes, is practically not discussed at all. Sentences like "There is complete destruction of visible and palpable malignant disease" do not serve to enhance the value of this pamphlet. That Dr. Saberton recommends chloroform anesthesia in operations inside the oral cavity will not add to the popularity of his book among American surgeons.

VORLESUNGEN ÜBER BAKTERIOLOGIE, IMMUNITÄT, SPEZIFISCHE DIAGNOSTIK UND THERAPIE DER TUBERKULOSE, FÜR AERZTE UND TIERÄRZTE. Von Dr. Ernst Löwenstein, a. o. Professor an der Universität Wien. Paper. Price, 43 marks. Pp. 476, with 3 illustrations. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1920.

In the preface, the author states that his purpose is to collect all the facts coming within the subjects covered, as far as they have been established by trustworthy methods, in order to accomplish two purposes: 1. That every earnest physician, even when isolated where access to literature is impossible, may be enabled to do independent work. On this ground the methods are given particular attention. 2. That every physician may be enabled to reach proper conclusions concerning the value of new discoveries reported in this field. "A good critical capacity is necessary in these days, in order to keep a clear head against the flood of new medicaments with which the medical industries overwhelm us, and against their more or less scientifically masked advertisements." The greater part of the book deals with the immunologic reactions of tuberculosis, from the standpoint of both diagnosis and therapy, and the confusing literature on these topics is digested in a properly objective and critical spirit. The first third of the space is given over to a discussion of the properties of the tubercle bacillus itself, including also the subjects of disinfection and chemotherapy. The purposes of the author seem to be well achieved. There is an enormous amount of well-digested information, in a comparatively small space, and with a considerable bibliography. While of necessity much of the literature published since the war in countries outside the central empires has not been considered, there are not many important omissions. The book should be of value as a reference work for all those interested in tuberculosis, whether from the standpoint of clinical or from that of laboratory investigation.

NUCLEIC ACIDS, THEIR CHEMICAL PROPERTIES AND PHYSIOLOGICAL CONDUCT. By Walter Jones, Ph.D., Professor of Physiological Chemistry in the Johns Hopkins Medical School. Second edition. Boards. Price, \$3.25. Pp. 150. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1920.

The publication of the Monographs on Biochemistry is an important service to medical and biologic science, since it puts in readily available form critical reviews of important subjects in this field, each prepared by an authority specializing on the topic which he is discussing, and keeps these reviews up to date. For the medical sciences, one of the most important of these monographs is that on nucleic acids by Prof. Walter Jones, which now appears as a revised edition, the first edition having been published in 1914. It constitutes the most useful source of information available concerning the composition and properties of these important and characteristic elements of cell structure, and the source of the purins. The chief changes noted in the new edition concern the development of our knowledge concerning the structure of the nucleic acid molecule, which has been worked out mostly in this country by P. A. Levene and Walter Jones and their collaborators.