

Book Notices

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF THE DISEASES OF THE EAR. For Senior Students and Practitioners. By William Milligan, M.D., Aurist and Laryngologist to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Wyatt Wingrave, M.D., Pathologist (Lately Physician) to the Central Throat and Ear Hospital, London. Cloth. Price, \$5 net. Pp. 596, with 293 illustrations. New York: Macmillan Co., 1911.

This text-book on diseases of the ear brings the subject reasonably well up to the present time. The book is well written and takes up the subject in a clear and instructive manner. It does not assume that the reader knows a great deal about the subject and still it goes into each subject with sufficient fulness for even an aural specialist. The different subjects are well paragraphed and therefore essential features of each chapter can be readily found. Some features of this specialty are found in the book that are not usually dwelt on in the general run of books on diseases of the ear. There is an exceptionally clear and interesting chapter on the bacteriology of discharges from the ear. The authors set forth with great clearness and minuteness the characteristics of all kinds of aural discharges, and describe carefully the intracranial complications of middle-ear diseases, including the various forms of meningitis, brain abscess, etc. There is also found an excellent description of the proper manner of making lumbar punctures, a matter not described in most text-books on this subject, yet of great value, being a procedure which should be frequently used. A short but interesting chapter on diseases of the ear in relation to general medicine written by Purves Stewart treats of such matters as cerebral embolism, thrombosis, aphasia, intrapontine vascular lesions, meningitis, tumors, tabes, disseminating sclerosis, epilepsy, etc. Not as much attention has been paid to deaf-mutism as this subject deserves. The chapter on diseases of the nasal accessory sinuses is an important one not only to nose surgeons but also to ophthalmologists. Although some ophthalmologists are skeptical as to the relation between some diseases of the eye and diseases of the accessory nasal sinuses there can be no question as to their interdependence, as indicated by the exhaustive work of Killian, Turner, Hajek, Grant, Brawley and others. The tests for pathologic conditions of the conductive and perceptive apparatus according to the methods of Barany, Neumann and others are stated with great lucidity. It is a matter of surprise to the reviewer to find reference to artificial tampons for the improvement of hearing, which have long since been discarded in America, and that the idea should be given that the Stacke protector should always be used in the radical mastoid operation. While it is intended to protect the facial nerve, it is believed that it may be a source of injury by crowding its protective foot-plate into the aditus. With a proper technic a protector has been found unnecessary. The book is, for the most part, well illustrated, but with the perfection of present-day illustrations, it is disappointing to find many of the old imperfect pictures from Quain, Politzer and others. Many of them convey no intelligent idea of what they are intended to illustrate. For instance, the figure intended to illustrate the use of Allport's self-retaining retractors conveys no rational idea as to their use. Aside from these minor shortcomings the book is one of the best on the subject of the ear in the English language and can safely be recommended to all having an interest in these topics.

DISEASES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. Their Dietetic, Hygienic and Medical Treatment. A Text-Book Designed for Practitioners and Students in Medicine. By Louis Fischer, M.D., Attending Physician to the Willard Parker and Riverside Hospitals of New York. Fourth Edition. Cloth. Price, \$6.50 net. Pp. 980, with 308 illustrations. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Co., 1911.

Knowledge concerning the diseases of children has advanced at a rapid rate recently, notably in poliomyelitis and meningitis, but particularly with reference to the metabolism or nutritional disorders of infants. It is in this respect that most of the changes in this edition of Fischer's well-known book have been made. The newer conception of foods and infant feeding are carefully set forth, along with other changes demanded by the growing knowledge of children's diseases.

THE BLOOD AND ITS THIRD ANATOMICAL ELEMENT. Application of the Microzymian theory of the living organization to the study of the anatomical and chemical constitution of the blood and to that of the anatomical and physiologic causes of the phenomena of its coagulation and of its other spontaneous changes. By A. Béchamp, Formerly Professor in the Medical Faculty of Montpellier (France). Translated from the French by Montague R. Levenson, M.D., of the Baltimore Medical School and M.A. and Ph.D. of the University of Göttingen. Cloth. Price, \$1.50. Pp. 440. Philadelphia: Boerliche & Tafel, 1911.

This book is controversial, attempting to bring before the public once more and to substantiate theories first promulgated about half a century ago. The author and translator accuse Pasteur of appropriating Béchamp's views and of instigating a "conspiracy of silence" about them. Béchamp's observations were interesting and, when made, were new and important. On them he founded a theory which if accepted would displace modern bacteriology. The following quotations will give an idea of the theory and will enable the reader to judge somewhat whether Pasteur's conclusions encroached on Béchamp's theory. It is true that the two worked at the same time on the same problems and independently observed the same phenomena but each drew very different conclusions from their observations.

In 1863 Béchamp isolated a soluble ferment from yeast and called it a *zymas*. Later he observed in various tissues and cellular organisms minute bodies just discoverable with the microscope which contained *zymases* and which he called a *microzyma*. Later he built up the *microzymian* theory:

"1. The *microzymas* of the animal organism proceed from the vitellin *microzymas*, which are autonomous anatomic elements.

"2. The number of anatomic species of *microzymas* is enormous.

"3. The essential biologic characters of *microzymas* are to be creators of cellules by synthesis and of *vibrioniens* by evolution.

"4. The physiologic and chemical characters of *microzymas* are to produce the *zymases* and to be themselves ferments having a determined form."

Not only does the author find all cells and tissues composed of *microzymas* and strangely transmutable but he finds them in rock, the products of life in past ages. "It is to be borne in mind that I gave the name of *microzyma* at first to the geological figured ferment of the chalk of Sens and of another calcareous earth. I have discovered this ferment in other calcareous rocks, always in a spherical form, very brilliant, having the Brownian movement and smaller than all the *vibrioniens* described by authors."

There are described in this book interesting bits of scientific history, and very many interesting experiments and observations. The book will interest students who wish to see from all sides the development of our knowledge of ferments and especially those interested in theories which have not been accepted by scientific men.

DISEASES OF THE STOMACH, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TREATMENT. By C. D. Aaron, Sc.D., M.D., Professor of Gastro-Enterology and Adjunct Professor of Dietetics in the Detroit College of Medicine. Cloth. Price, \$4.75 net. Pp. 555, with 42 illustrations. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1911.

The utility of the present work to the busy practitioner is greatly enhanced by the fact that no space is wasted in the consideration of historical questions or theoretic discussions having no practical bearing on treatment. After brief chapters on physiology and laboratory methods of examination, the author takes up the discussion of general method of treatment, to which about one-third of the book is devoted. Individual diseases are next considered; and here again the greater amount of space is given to the neuroses and functional conditions, together with gastritis. The work is completed by short chapters on gastric ulcer, hemorrhage, syphilis, tuberculosis, carcinoma and other tumors. In the general sections on treatment, considerable attention is given to massage, electricity and the use of mineral waters. The indications for surgical intervention are thoroughly discussed in a separate chapter. The treatment of enteroptosis by mechanical support receives especial attention and the technic of applying bandages and corsets is very thoroughly described.