

DISEASES OF THE VERMIFORM APPENDIX.

DR. HOWARD A. KELLY has prepared a second edition of his work on *Appendicitis and Other Diseases of the Vermiform Appendix*,⁸ which differs considerably from the first. It is a smaller work and more compact, and the author has aimed at presenting the subject in a practical manner to meet the needs of general surgeons. The book opens with an outline of the history of the disease which traces the records back to the year 1755; this is followed by a chapter on the anatomy, naked eye and microscopic, and into this chapter is brought an account of the diverticula of the intestine, chiefly of the true or Meckel's diverticulum.

The physiology of the appendix is also shortly discussed without throwing any new light on the subject. A beautifully illustrated chapter on the pathology particularly attracts attention. In only one aspect does it appear to us to be imperfect—that is, in regard to the chemical constitution of concretions; these latter are still looked upon as the result of desiccation of retained faecal particles, a view which is not in accordance with the latest observations. The morbid anatomy of the complications of the disease follows, and also that of specific inflammatory diseases, of tuberculosis, actinomycosis, and the lesions which are found in enteric and amoebic dysentery. Two-thirds of the volume are devoted to the clinical aspects of the disease.

In discussing the clinical phenomena Dr. Kelly points out very rightly that the all-important question which a practitioner has to ask himself, when first brought face to face with patients suffering from this disease, is: "Are the symptoms both general and local subsiding, are they becoming more severe, or are they apparently stationary?" On the settlement of these matters will depend the course of action. A particularly valuable chapter is that on appendicitis in childhood. The difficulties in diagnosis and the serious average type of the disease at this age are well known to every surgeon of experience. Early operation is even more important in the child than in the adult, so many cases at this age end in general peritonitis or successive abscess formation.

The operative treatment is described in great detail, both that of the simple disease and that of its various complications. The illustrations of the volume are those in the first edition with certain omissions corresponding with the smaller size of the book. We doubt whether finer illustrations are to be found in any textbook.

CHEMISTRY.

DR. JAMES PHILIP, Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has earned our gratitude by writing a most readable and interesting little book on *Physical Chemistry in its Bearing on Biology and Medicine*.⁹ The conceptions and methods of physical chemistry developed in recent years, are used daily more and more in attacking physiological and pathological problems, and are full of promise for the future. Students who desire to advance medical knowledge must master the underlying principles. Dr. Philip's book originated in a course of lectures delivered to biological students at the University of London. The use of mathematics has been avoided as far as possible, and the reader is assumed to have only an ordinary acquaintance with physics and chemistry. The application of physico-chemical principles are illustrated by well-chosen examples taken from the fields of biology, physiology, and medicine. The medical student, with the aid of this little book, will gain an excellent knowledge of the gas laws, of diffusion and osmosis, the ionic theory, the properties of colloids, adsorption, catalysis, and the action of enzymes, etc. Only the simplest mathematical equations are employed, and in every case the formulæ used are illustrated by concrete experimental results, which make the principles clear to the non-mathematical mind. The study of the interaction of electrolytes in solution, of inorganic catalysts, whose activity so closely

resemble that of enzymes, bring home to us the wonderful intricacy of the phenomena which pertain to watery solutions, and show that there is mystery in a drop of water no less than in a living cell. We can confidently recommend Dr. Philip's book to all those who are studying the problems of medicine; they will find it most helpful and suggestive.

The short *Manual of Practical Inorganic Chemistry*¹⁰ by Mr. A. M. KILLAS belongs to the Oxford Medical Publications, and possesses some unique features. The illustrations are all new and very graphic. The author is a lecturer on chemistry at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, and has published an *Introduction to Medical Chemistry*, of which the present work is an extension. The table of logarithms and antilogarithms is very useful and will save the reader much trouble in looking up tables of logarithms. We should like to have seen the "phase rule" mentioned. We are sure, as the author says in his preface, the book will not only aid the student but also lighten the work of the teacher. One point to which we would direct the author's attention is that in a future edition spectrum analysis should be mentioned.

In *New Reduction Methods in Volumetric Analysis*¹¹ E. KNECHT and E. HIBBERT have collected the published facts with regard to the use of titanium chloride in analytical work, both from their own original papers and those of other chemists. Potassium permanganate and several other oxidizers have long been in wide use for the volumetric determination of reducing substances, but there has been no corresponding method generally applicable for estimating oxidizers by means of a reducer. Titanium chloride seems likely to fill the vacancy, and in this monograph directions are given for estimating many substances, both inorganic and organic by its use. Dyestuffs which form colourless compounds on reduction form a considerable number of those for which the reagent is recommended.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE pamphlet by Dr. T. L. LLEWELLYN on *First Aid in Collieries*¹² is intended for the assistance of ambulance men, and incidentally it suggests the economic importance to colliery owners of immediate skilled attention to what appears to be trivial injuries to workmen. Colliery proprietors are urged to interest themselves in the formation of ambulance brigades and to support them liberally, not only in their own interests but in that of the workmen. First-aid materials should be available as near the working places as possible, and the author suggests a form of first-aid box fitted with gauze, bandages, etc., which is at present in use at certain collieries. It is further advised that a receiving room should be provided near the pit shaft, furnished with hot and cold water, basins, lotions, blankets, etc., all ready for the use of the colliery surgeon. Brief but useful information is given to ambulance men on the subject of fractures, electric shocks, wounds, and burns, and there is a note on first aid in explosions.

The critic seldom appreciates the firmness and worth of his "prejudices" so fully as when he has read with enjoyment a book such as *The Religions and Philosophies of the East*,¹³ by J. M. KENNEDY, in which hardly a sentence has earned intellectual assent. "Ad majorem Neitzchii gloriam." Mr. Kennedy has given a clear and readable account successively of Brahmanism, Krishnism, Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Judaism, and the philosophies of India, China, and Japan, and also, by reflection, of Christianity, in the light of Nietzsche's "will to power," as the measure of ethical value. He begins with the debatable Aryan hypothesis as foundation, and his "final word" is "Merely this—that the religion of men of inferior intellects must be prescribed for them by the higher order of men, and not, as is usually the case at present, vice versa."

¹⁰ London: H. Frowde, and Hodder and Stoughton. 1910. (Demy 8vo. pp. 355. 5s.)

¹¹ *New Reduction Methods in Volumetric Analysis*. A monograph by Edmund Knecht, Ph.D., M.Sc. Tech., F.I.C., and Eva Hibbert. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1910. (Cr. 8vo. pp. 128. 3s.)

¹² *First Aid in Collieries*. By T. L. Llewellyn, M.D. Lond., B.S. The Colliery Guardian, 30, Fournival Street, Holborn, E.C. (Pp. 18. 1d.)

¹³ *The Religions and Philosophies of the East*. By J. M. Kennedy. London: T. Werner Laurie. (Pp. xi, 276. 6s.)

⁸ *Appendicitis and Other Diseases of the Vermiform Appendix*. By Howard A. Kelly, M.D. Second edition. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. (Sup. roy. 8vo. pp. 530; 215 figures; 3 coloured plates. 35s.)

⁹ *Physical Chemistry: Its Bearing on Biology and Medicine*. By Dr. James C. Philip, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc. London: E. Arnold. 1910. (Cr. 8vo. pp. 318. 7s. 6d.)

The third volume of *International Clinics*¹⁴ for 1910 contains articles on a wide variety of subjects, and, in addition to papers dealing with various medical, surgical, and gynaecological questions, there are several lectures devoted to general diagnosis and treatment. A book of this kind is essentially clinical, and the wide field of practical work which it covers ensures to every reader the discovery of one or more chapters dealing with disordered conditions of the human body in which he takes a personal and special interest. With one or two exceptions the contributors are all teachers in the American schools of medicine, and this collection of monographs may therefore be regarded as a reflex of the practice of the day in the hospitals of the United States. At the present time, when questions bearing upon the treatment of tuberculosis are very much in the air, the chapter by Dr. Joseph Walsh of Philadelphia on the treatment of advanced and acute cases of tuberculosis of the lungs will be read with special interest. He depends for his results upon fresh air, rest, nourishment, combined with inunction of europhen (an iodine compound), and general tonics, according to indications, administered internally. No reference is made to vaccines, or antiseptics, or any of the more recent methods of medication. In these days of experimental enthusiasm it is unusual to read a paper by an acknowledged authority in which they are not even mentioned. Has Dr. Walsh tried them and found them wanting? Or is he convinced from his observation either that they are not yet sufficiently proved to be trustworthy, or that they are totally unsuited for acute cases? The presentation of a series of desultory papers such as these quarterly volumes of *International Clinics* contain is undoubtedly of some use, but it is possible that more practical value would attend the publication of similar volumes of clinical lectures collected from more limited fields, say, from the medical schools of one country or of one city. To make any work international in the proper sense of the term would involve not only the collection enormous material, but the publication of many volumes in order to have it adequately representative. The Editorial Committee of this series of *International Clinics*, apart from its American members, can in no sense be called representative of any other country.

The edition of *Nisbet's Medical Directory for 1911*¹⁵ has reached us this week. As is probably well known to most readers, it is arranged in two parts, the first consisting of a single alphabetical directory of medical practitioners, with their addresses and short particulars of their diplomas, the appointments they hold, and a mention of a book or paper which may be taken as some indication of the subjects in which they are specially interested. The second part is a local directory, in which the names of the practitioners are arranged under the places in which they reside. Among the merits claimed for the book are that it is handy, accurate, and concise, and these claims are, we think, justified.

Dr. A. M. KELLAS'S *Introduction to Practical Organic Chemistry*¹⁶ is intended as a guide to laboratory work in this subject, and is suitable for those commencing the subject and desirous of proceeding in it about as far as is required for the Preliminary Scientific Examination of London University. The preparation of typical organic substances and their ultimate analysis, together with tests for the identification of those most commonly occurring, are dealt with in sections of the book, while two appendices are devoted to additional requirements for some examinations of the Board of Education and the London University. The work appears to be well planned and the directions adequate and well chosen. The book will probably prove useful to medical students for this portion of their curriculum.

¹⁴ *International Clinics*. By Leading Members of the Medical Profession throughout the World. Edited by Henry W. Cattell, A.M., M.D., Philadelphia, U.S.A., and others. Vol. III. Twentieth Series, 1910. Philadelphia and London: J. P. Lippincott Company. 1910. (Royal 8vo, pp. 347. Numerous plates and figures.)

¹⁵ *Nisbet's Medical Directory, 1911*. London: James Nisbet and Co. (7s. 6d.)

¹⁶ *Introduction to Practical Organic Chemistry, including Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis and Preparations*. By A. M. Kellas, B.Sc. Lond., Ph.D. Heidelberg. London: Henry Frowde, and Hodder and Stoughton. 1910. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 242, 50 illustrations. 5s. 6d.)

THE late Dr. J. Frank Payne left estate valued at £15,285.

THE Fourth International Congress for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind is to be held at Cairo this month (20th to 25th). It is under the patronage of His Highness the Khedive. The General Secretary is His Excellency Dr. Eloui Pasha, 2, Zervudachi Street, Cairo.

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT HOSPITALS.

NORWICH.

THE annual meeting of the subscribers of the Norwich Eye Infirmary was largely occupied in discussing the position which has been brought about by the action of the Education Committee in desiring that cases of eye defects discovered in the course of the medical examination of school children should be treated at the Norwich Eye Infirmary, a matter to which reference was made in the *JOURNAL* of January 14th, page 103.

The financial statement submitted to the meeting showed that the income was £250 from subscriptions, £104 from donations, and £203 from investments. The year had begun with a balance due to the bank of £118, and this debt had been increased to £299. The annual report of the committee contained the following paragraph:

The physical inspection and care of children in our public schools have revealed the fact that there are a large number of children requiring treatment for minor ophthalmic ailments. This necessarily increases the number of those who by subscribers' recommendations seek the aid of our charity, and we hope such arrangements will be made by the education authority as will meet the pressing need. This matter has been, and is, under the anxious consideration of your committee. Year by year we are increasingly indebted to our honorary medical staff for the unsparing devotion to the work they have undertaken.

Reference was made to a proposal to amalgamate the Eye Infirmary with the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and the Lord Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was hoped to proceed with the matter so soon as certain details had been arranged with the Charity Commissioners. He also referred to the physical care of children whose eyesight was found to be defective. This, he said, was a question that was being met in all charitable medical institutions, but he thought that with a little forethought the difficulty might be overcome until the local authorities had made proper arrangements for themselves dealing with the children, as no doubt they would do in the course of time. In the meantime, there would be some difficulty, and charitable institutions would have to put up with them for the time being.

The medical officer's report contained the following passage referring to this matter:

In our reports for the previous two years (1909 and 1908) your attention was drawn to children attending for treatment of minor ailments as the result of State medical inspection. Towards the end of the year under review it was found that yet another twelve months was passing without any satisfactory solution of the difficult question of the treatment of these school children, and that although the local education authority had made an arrangement directly with an ophthalmic surgeon to treat such cases as were sent him, and your Committee of Management had informed the Education authority that you were unanimously decided not to treat these cases, nevertheless school children continued to attend as the result of school medical inspection, for treatment of minor ophthalmic defects. Your medical staff, giving the matter their very full, careful, and anxious consideration, felt that although they had no difficulty in coping with the slight additional work which the treatment of these children entails, yet they could not disregard the considerations that the infirmary was established purely as a charity, and their positions as members of its medical staff honorary; and also further that the local education authority had made an arrangement directly with an ophthalmic surgeon to treat such children as were sent him. We felt therefore bound to continue loyal to the wishes of the Committee of Management, and support, so far as was in our power, their feelings in the matter as unanimously expressed in their resolution of May 19th, 1909—namely: "The Eye Infirmary being established purely as a charity, the committee are not prepared to treat cases sent by the Education Committee." Accordingly on October 24th, 1910, we handed in notice that after a reasonable time we should decline to see these school cases, both for the city and county. Having subsequently, however, ascertained that the county education authority was making real and earnest endeavours to arrive at a universally satisfactory solution of the question of the treatment of its children, we withdrew our notice so far as the county children were concerned, before it had come into force. In connexion with this matter your committee asked us to report on the question of the appointment of a paid clinical assistant. This subject has received our full and careful consideration, and a report on the whole question has been laid before your committee.

The report having been received, Mr. S. COZENS-HARDY moved the following addition to the rules: "That the