

Reviews

PIERSOL'S TEXTBOOK OF ANATOMY

*Piersol's Human Anatomy*¹ was first published twenty-four years ago, under the editorship of Professor G. A. Piersol of the University of Pennsylvania, with the help of half a dozen collaborators. Of the latter, only one now survives—as emeritus professor. The work of the original editor and his collaborators has been well rewarded by a popularity which has led to the production of successive editions. Now the ninth edition has appeared, under the supervision of Professor HUBER of the University of Michigan. One of the chief points of difference between this new edition and its predecessors is the consistent adoption of the B.N.A. nomenclature. The abandonment of what is usually called the "old nomenclature" in anatomy has become inevitable, in spite of the protestations—now growing less audible—of the older British anatomists. But we may perhaps, in passing, express the opinion that it is now time to revise the B.N.A. nomenclature in order to replace some of the cumbrous and misleading terms which are to be found therein. A few changes have been made in the revision of parts dealing with the histogenesis of the blood elements and the embryological development of certain systems concerning which views have changed during recent years. In the section devoted to the central nervous system the supervisor has had the invaluable assistance of Miss Crossby. This investigator has in the last few years completed a vast amount of detailed and laborious study on the comparative anatomy of the brain in vertebrates, and her work has been published in a number of voluminous papers in American journals. The reader may be certain, therefore, that the details of neurological anatomy in Piersol's textbook are dealt with in an accurate and comprehensive manner.

Of the text generally we have no criticism to offer. Perhaps it may be considered rather too long for the purpose of the average medical student (it runs into over 2,000 pages), and the volume certainly reaches the utmost limit in bulk for convenient use. The illustrations, we think, are not in keeping with the high standard of the text. They often lack the precision and clear simplicity which are so necessary for the production of successful anatomical figures. This is evidently due in part to the printing, as is apparent especially in the case of the coloured illustrations. It is unlikely that Piersol's *Anatomy* will be a competitor with Gray and Cunningham for the favour of medical students in this country. On the other hand, its comprehensive treatment of the subject in general, and the authoritative accounts given in sections such as that on the nervous system, render it an invaluable reference book to all those who may be primarily or secondarily interested in the science of human anatomy.

ANATOMICO-CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASES OF THE BREAST

The pupils of the late Professor Paul Lecène have dutifully arranged to bring out in a series of five monographs the material which their chief had for ten years been preparing for his *Les Diagnostiques Anatomico-Cliniques*,² the first volume of which deals with general principles and diseases of the breast, by Dr. P. PAVIE and Dr. P. MOULONGUET

¹ *Piersol's Human Anatomy*. Ninth edition, revised under the supervision of G. Carl Huber, M.D., Sc.D. London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1931. (Pp. xx + 2,104; 1,734 figures. 45s. net.)

² *Les Diagnostiques Anatomico-Cliniques de Paul Lecène*. Recueillis par ses élèves. (i) Généralités, par P. Pavie; (ii) Lésions du sein, par P. Moulonguet. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1930. (Pp. xi + 189; 92 figures, 2 plates. 45 fr.)

respectively. It begins with a reproduction of some ten pages of Lecène's original manuscript of the preface. In discussing what the surgeon ought to learn from laboratory investigations, Dr. Pavie points out that Lecène regarded clinical, operative, and careful naked-eye examination as being supplemented by microscopical examination, which should be regarded as the fourth in the process of scientific investigation. In the section on the method of biopsy, stress is laid on the importance of sending to the laboratory with the specimen adequate clinical and anatomical details, and it is stated that without some information of this kind a conscientious morbid histologist should decline to give a report.

Nearly three-quarters of this finely illustrated volume is devoted to diseases of the breast, in which acute and chronic infections, dystrophies (such as hypertrophy), multiple cystic disease and adeno-lipoma, innocent and malignant new growths, and fat necrosis are described. The section on tuberculosis of the mamma points out the various aspects which this infection may present, the form simulating a galactocele being figured; Lecène never met with the non-suppurating sclerosing form which imitates cancer, but elsewhere an illustration of the combination of the two is given. Galactocele is included under the infections, as Lecène and Chifoliau showed a quarter of a century ago that it is due to subacute or chronic inflammation of the mamma. Lecène never saw an example of tertiary syphilis or of actinomycosis of the breast; but, as shown in a figure elsewhere, a necrotic carcinoma may simulate a gumma of the mamma. "Paget's disease of the breast" is preferable to the title "Paget's disease of the nipple," because, in Lecène's experience, the skin changes are always accompanied by lesions in the ducts in the substance of the breast, and further, as Lenthal Cheatle has shown, these changes in the ducts may occur without any alteration in the nipple. Fat necrosis, well shown in two coloured plates, is relatively frequent in fat women after injury, and, as it forms an ill-defined hard lump, adherent to the skin, may give rise to difficulty in diagnosis from malignant disease. This article, for which Dr. P. Moulonguet is responsible, is full of interesting information.

EXAMINATION OF THE LUNGS

The chapters in *The Physical and Radiological Examination of the Lungs*³ embody the teaching given by Dr. CROCKET to his students at Glasgow University. It is nine years since the first edition was published, and the second is to a large extent a new book. Even the title has been altered. Two new methods of examination have been described and advocated in the intervening years—bronchography and bronchoscopy. The technique and results of the former are well described and illustrated. The latter is not dealt with, but its value is scarcely recognized in this country.

The various other methods of examination are described in detail, and stress is laid on the value of inspection of the patient, an important part of the routine examination so often neglected. The section on radiology is admirably illustrated by numerous radiograms. A chapter on the methods of examining a case gives to the student a systematic routine procedure for dealing with any patient presenting pulmonary symptoms. This will obviate the likelihood of anything important being missed when endeavouring to form an opinion and make a diagnosis. The author has wisely again included a well-illustrated chapter on the examination of the larynx.

³ *The Physical and Radiological Examination of the Lungs*. By James Crocket, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.Ed. Second edition. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1931. (Pp. x + 296; 151 figures, including 40 plates. 16s.)

Without such an examination an investigation of the chest cannot be regarded as complete, particularly if pulmonary tuberculosis is suspected. The larynx is so intimately associated with the respiratory apparatus in its functions and its diseases that the omission of such a chapter would have been a mistake. An unusual feature is the thirteen-page glossary of terms and signs used in the physical examination of the lungs, which forms an appendix. It is usually difficult to find definitions of terms used in medical literature generally, and in connexion with diseases of the lungs in particular. It is a pity that so many signs and areas should still bear the names of the men who first described them. Such names as Troisier's sign (enlargement of the supraclavicular lymph glands), Burns's space (suprasternal), Damoiseau's sign and Ellis's line (the curved upper limit of a pleural effusion), and Mohrenheim's fossa (infraclavicular) are unnecessary and confusing, and might well disappear from modern textbooks.

By a curious convention the author has written this book "with special reference to tuberculosis and silicosis," and chapters are devoted to these diseases, while other important pulmonary diseases such as pneumonia, pleural effusion, bronchitis, and pulmonary neoplasm are scarcely mentioned. Since the book is primarily intended as a manual on the examination of the lungs for students, it is perhaps a little unfortunate that the author has allowed himself to particularize in this way, despite the great importance of the two diseases he has picked out.

PHARMACOLOGY OF QUININE

Quinine in general practice with regard to pharmacological knowledge,⁴ by Dr. F. JOHANNESSEN, is a monograph of 232 pages published by the Amsterdam Bureau for the Encouragement of the Use of Quinine. The author describes shortly the history, mode of preparation, and chemistry of quinine, but most of the volume is occupied by a discussion of the pharmacological actions and therapeutic uses of quinine and of quinidine. He explains in the preface that his purpose is to give an account of the actions exerted by quinine on the body as a whole, rather than an account of its specific action on the malarial parasite. In accordance with this intention he has provided a full description of the pharmacology and therapeutic uses of quinine and quinidine, and there is also a useful bibliography. Relatively little is said regarding the action of quinine in malaria, for this subject occupies only eight pages; moreover, in the section on quinine poisoning only two pages are given to blackwater fever. The book provides a full account of our knowledge of the general pharmacological actions of quinine, a subject that is often unduly neglected on account of the dominating interest of the problems relating to its specific action in malaria.

THE V.A.D. IN THE WAR

*Four Years Out of Life*⁵ is an interesting account of the experiences of a V.A.D. worker during the war. It is an eminently human document, written in a light and entertaining fashion, without a single dull page. Its easy, clear descriptions contain much of a thoughtful nature beneath their bright exterior. Of the various combatant and non-combatant services, none emerged

from the crucial test of war with a higher credit than the Volunteer Aid Detachments. Many of the girls who composed these units were brought up to regard tennis and garden parties as the important things of this life. Yet when the war broke out they realized what was at stake, and rose magnificently to the occasion. Less instructed and less practised than their sisters in the nursing services, they were none the less willing. Many had led careful, sheltered lives, which were a poor preparation for the stern realities of war. They were ready to perform any menial and unpleasant duty and to fill any subordinate position without hesitation and complaint. By their high endeavour and achievement they earned for themselves an honourable place among the forces of the Crown. These things are not insisted upon in the breezy pages of LESLEY SMITH'S most readable book: they are taken as a matter of course. She describes with a sure touch the routine of duty in a base hospital, the arrival of convoys of wounded and sick, the activities of the operating teams, and the hard, grinding toil of the sisters, whether trained or untrained. The vicissitudes of the weather, the unpleasant attentions of the German bombers, the cold and wet and the sad sameness of the mess-room meals, are all set down. In her constant subdued protest against the matron type of official, she reveals herself a rebel at heart. This does not appear to have affected her efficiency as a nurse or to have lessened her interest in her work. Soldiers who spent most of the war up the line, remote from hospitals, may be permitted to indulge a faint surprise at the wealth of lurid language those ministering angels are described as using. Is this, on the authority of Lesley Smith, to be accepted as correct? One wonders if it has not been perhaps too much dwelt upon in the pages of an otherwise thoroughly readable book, which shows unusual faculties of observation and powers of description.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Dr. EARL D. McBRIDE of Oklahoma has prepared a guide for the help of nurses, masseuses, and other non-medical persons who may have the care of cripples. Nothing can take the place of first-hand practical instruction and demonstration by the orthopaedic surgeon, but such a vade mecum as *Crippled Children*⁶ should be of considerable use for reference, or to refresh the memory. Although the treatment of deformities by operation is beyond the scope of nurses and social workers, some knowledge of the nature of operative proceedings improves the intelligent carrying out of post-operative measures and enhances interest in progress. Dr. McBride includes harelip and cleft palate in the crippling deformities of children, and gives indications of the operations needed for their relief. In discussing spastic paralysis he does not, in our opinion, give enough credit to Stöffel's operation, which many surgeons have found so useful when judiciously planned and performed. Royle's operation is not yet established in the position of a practical means of treatment. More might have been said, when discussing infantile paralysis, of the frequency and importance of paralysis of the muscles of the abdomen and trunk. The condition of the abdominal muscles is apt to escape detection when interest is centred on the more striking palsy of the lower limbs. The hints as to the fitting application, and care of the Thomas knee splint are of practical value, and should be taken to heart by all who have to do with it. The chapter on plaster-of-Paris technique should also be useful.

⁴ *Chinin in der Allgemeinpraxis*. Von Dr. med. Fritz Johannes-sonn. Amsterdam-W.: Bureau Tot Bevordering van Het Kinine-Gebruik. 1930. (Pp. 232; 3 plates. Sent, free of charge, to medical men, on request.)

⁵ *Four Years Out of Life*. By Lesley Smith. London: P. Allan. 1931. (Pp. 302; illustrated. 12s. 6d. net.)

⁶ *Crippled Children*. By Earl D. McBride, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., London: H. Kimpton. 1931. (Pp. 280; 159 figures. 15s. net.)

ELEMENTS OF PHYSIOLOGY

Professors SCARTH and LLOYD, who hold chairs of botany in McGill University, have written a very interesting *Elementary Course in General Physiology*.⁷ The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with principles and theory, the second giving laboratory exercises. It is hoped that the work will serve as an introduction to the analysis of physiological processes in terms of physical and colloidal chemistry; it is especially intended for the use of students of medicine, biology, and plant physiology. The general plan adopted is to discuss the various processes in purely physical systems and then to consider their possible application to living cells. After an introductory chapter on the structure of the cell, various surface phenomena are discussed, and their importance is brought out prominently by the statement that there are 30,000 square metres of internal surface in the body. Surface tension is carefully dealt with—its cause, its relation to shape of cells, to protoplasmic movements, to ingestion and excretion by unicellular organisms, and the light it throws on the phenomena of leucocytosis; absorption is considered equally fully, and reference is made to the action of narcotics, to catalysis, and to post-mortem and vital staining. Chapters follow on osmosis and diffusion (in which problems of cell permeability are gone into), on H-ion concentration, on bioelectric potentials and currents, colloids, and enzymes. Throughout great pains are taken to make clear how the physico-chemical processes under discussion illuminate physiological problems.

This book will well repay careful study, especially by those who have not received a thorough grounding in physical chemistry. A good deal of the material dealt with and the exercises described might with advantage be brought into the regular medical curriculum. This would be a more useful branch of study than much of the inorganic and organic chemistry which is so widely taught at present, and could very well replace it to a large extent.

NOTES ON BOOKS

In writing *A Survey of Physics*⁸ Professor FREDERICK A. SAUNDERS of Harvard University has endeavoured to steer a middle course between the popular presentation and the textbook for advanced students. His aim is to encourage "a thoughtful consideration of the subject by a choice of problems dealing with common things, but often in such a way that they cannot be solved by mere substitution in a formula." He uses elementary mathematics where necessary, but all the trigonometry needed for this book is summarized in a page and a half at the end. The letterpress is clearly written and clearly printed, and the illustrations are well chosen.

Having assumed personal responsibility for the first nineteen editions of his *Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics*,⁹ Sir WILLIAM HALE-WHITE handed over the task of revision to Dr. A. H. DOUTHWAITE, and we now welcome the appearance of the twentieth edition of this deservedly popular handbook, whose features are too well known to need description. The general arrangement and style have been preserved, and brief additional notes inserted in order to bring the work into line with present-day knowledge. Among the

new paragraphs in this edition are notes on ephedrine, quinidine, novarsuroil, avertin, treatment by liver and gastric tissue, lipiodol, sodium tetraiodophenolphthalein and uroselectan, and Collip's parathormone. The vitamins also receive brief mention.

It is scarcely two years since we noticed the third edition of ASHHURST'S *Surgery, its Principles and Practice*, and now a fourth has been published,¹⁰ testifying to the popularity of this general surgical textbook among students and practitioners in America. There is evidence of careful revision throughout the letterpress, and a good deal of new matter has been added at various places, including a number of new illustrations. Dr. Ashhurst's work as professor of clinical surgery in the University of Philadelphia has made him familiar with the everyday needs of his pupils and with the paramount necessity for broad foundations in the teaching of surgery. Among the subjects treated more fully in this new edition of an excellent book are rectal and spinal anaesthesia, injection treatment of varicose veins, hyperthyroidism, peptic ulcers, and tumours of the sympathetic nervous system; but it seems curious in a volume of nearly 1,200 pages to find only a paragraph of twelve lines on the therapeutic use of radium.

The thirty-fifth supplement¹¹ of *Acta Medica Scandinavica* consists of an essay by Dr. ALEXANDER JAROTZKY, professor of clinical medicine at Moscow University, on the dietetic treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcer based on the work of the Russian School of Physiology. The author holds that the principle in the rational treatment of hypersecretion and peptic ulcer is the avoidance of mixtures of fat and albuminous substances of animal origin. Several illustrative cases are recorded, and the details of suitable diet for subjects of peptic ulcer are given. An extensive bibliography is appended.

In his work on the *Social Control of Sex Expression*,¹² which is appropriately dedicated to Professor Edward Westermark, Mr. GEOFFREY MAY has made an interesting study of the control exercised by Anglo-American law over voluntary sex expression. The work is divided into three parts. In the first the author successively considers sexual repression among primitive peoples, the ancient Hebrews, and the early Christians. The second part, which is devoted to the doctrine of sex repression in English law, covers the periods from the Anglo-Saxon times down to the present day, special attention being given to the Puritan era and the Restoration. The last part deals with the doctrine in Anglo-American law in pre-revolutionary America and at the present day. A useful bibliography is appended. The author comes to the conclusion that while the methods of legal control of sex expression have varied widely throughout American history, the doctrine of sexual morality itself has not varied at all.

The eighth volume of *Proceedings of the University of Otago Medical School*¹³ reproduces six papers published in medical and scientific journals between July, 1928, and October, 1930. The editor is Professor D. W. CARMALT JONES.

To the medical man, already overburdened with the terminology of his own profession, the *Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Motorcar Parts and Technical Terms*¹⁴ will be welcome. It is the "Pocket Gray" of the car.

¹⁰ *Surgery, its Principles and Practice*. By Astley Paston Cooper Ashhurst, M.D., F.A.C.S. Fourth edition, thoroughly revised. London: H. Kimpton. 1931. (Pp. xi + 1,189; 1,063 figures, 15 plates. 45s. net.)

¹¹ *Diätetische Behandlung des runden Geschwürs des Magens und des Duodenums*. Von Dr. Alexander Jarotzky. *Acta Medica Scandinavica*, Supplementum xxxv. Stockholm: Aftonbladets Tryckeri. 1930. (Pp. 114.)

¹² *Social Control of Sex Expression*. By Geoffrey May. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1930. (Pp. xi + 245. 12s. 6d. net.)

¹³ *Proceedings of the University of Otago Medical School*. No. 8. 1931. Edited by D. W. Carmalt Jones, M.D., F.R.C.P. Dunedin, N.Z.

¹⁴ *Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Motorcar Parts and Technical Terms*. London: The Motor. 1931. (Pp. 24; illustrated. 6d.)

⁷ *An Elementary Course in General Physiology*. Part I: Principle and Theory. By G. W. Scarth; Part II: Laboratory Exercises. By F. E. Lloyd and G. W. Scarth. New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd. (Pp. xxi + 258; 66 figures. 13s. 6d. net.)

⁸ *A Survey of Physics*. By Frederick A. Saunders. London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd.; New York: H. Holt and Co. 1931. (Pp. x + 635; illustrated. 14s. net.)

⁹ *Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. By William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D., LL.D. Ed. Twentieth edition, revised by A. H. Douthwaite, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1931. (Pp. viii + 712. 10s. 6d.)