

other diseases often terminate life, and these latter, not the former, are stated in the records. There is some discussion over the cardiac effects, and this would have been aided by fuller reference to the extensive animal experiments which have been carried out under oxygen pressures lower than those which exist at the altitudes considered. It is obvious that in such a case full information of what is really happening can only be obtained with the aid of animal experiment, in which the severity of the conditions is somewhat increased; the pathological effects are then more easily revealed, and suspicion that the heart is at a disadvantage becomes certainty.

The arrangement of the book is neat and handy, and the information will be of great use for future reference.

### DEXTROSE THERAPY

*Dextrose Therapy in Everyday Practice. A Survey of the Literature, 1900-1936, on the Experimental and Clinical Studies Applicable to Medicine and Surgery.* By E. Martin, Sc.D. With forewords by W. N. Haworth, F.R.S., and Bernard Fantus, M.D. (Pp. 451: 44 illustrations. 3 dollars.) New York and London: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 1937.

In this book an attempt has been made to survey dextrose therapy from all its aspects. The author begins with a short account of the chemistry of dextrose. This is followed by a review of the physiological role of this substance, and then the author discusses both the theoretical and practical bases for the use of dextrose in diseases involving each system of the body. Finally an account is given of the various methods of administration. References in profusion are quoted in each section.

The discussion of the chemistry of dextrose is lucid and brief, and it is clear that in this field Dr. Martin understands his subject, but it is impossible to read the rest of the book without receiving the impression that the author has only a second-hand, or at most a superficial, acquaintance with the conditions he discusses. Perhaps the desire to make the work comprehensive accounts for the uncritical accumulation and discussion of references, but it hardly accounts for the correlations which have been made. It is disconcerting to find the action of pituitrin on carbohydrate metabolism contrasted with the effects of hypophysectomy and no mention made of the action of the "diabetogenic" hormones of the anterior pituitary gland. How it is possible to read over 2,000 references concerning the role of dextrose in the body without encountering the numerous publications of Houssay and his colleagues concerning the action of the anterior hypophysis, or the work of Verzar in connexion with the absorption of glucose, is a matter for speculation.

The most serious fault of this book, however, is its lack of proportion. In an attempt to ascribe importance to dextrose in so many diseases the author has ransacked the literature for evidence in support of his conviction. The result is that a largely erroneous idea is given of many conditions in which dextrose is concerned either secondarily or not at all. In the discussion of dehydration, Addison's disease, stoker's cramp, alkalosis, intestinal obstruction, and shock, justification of dextrose therapy involves such special pleading that the fundamental pathology of these conditions is obscured and attention distracted from essential therapeutics.

It is difficult to see to what type of reader the book can be of use. To the student it will be rendered obscure by the mass of references and the failure to indicate which work is good, which bad, and which trivial; to the practitioner the absence of precise instructions when and where to do what in the relatively rare conditions it describes

will rob it of most of its useful claims; to the specialist, whether physiologist or clinician, the errors in the book will appear so numerous as to debar it from serious consideration.

### ANATOMICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Die Nomina Anatomica des Jahres 1895 (B.N.A.) nach der Buchstabenreife geordnet und gegenübergestellt den Nomina Anatomica des Jahres 1935 (I.N.A.).* By Dr. Fr. Kopsch. (Pp. 103. M.2.50.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1937.

In this treatise the nomina anatomica of 1895 (B.N.A.) are arranged alphabetically and placed opposite the nomina anatomica of 1935 (I.N.A.). After forty years the Basle *Nomina Anatomica* has been amended and brought up to date; certain new names have been added, and others omitted. We owe to Professor Kopsch and his collaborators this clear and concise comparison of the new with the older nomenclature, which enables the reader to see at a glance the numerous alterations that have been adopted. Asterisks and double asterisks have been employed to denote respectively minor and major alterations. These are chiefly concerned with: (1) linguistic corrections; (2) substitution of such terms as "cephalic" or "caudal" for "superior" or "inferior"; (3) the elimination of names of individuals, with the exception of certain celebrities of classical renown who for the time have escaped the axe—for example, Achilles, Burdach, Goll, Gowers, and Flechsig, whose names enclosed in brackets follow the descriptive term. Thus, "tendo m. tricipitis surae (Achillis)." The fresh names belong chiefly to the nervous system, and include those of many of the "nerve tracts" which have come into common use since the publication of the B.N.A. in 1895. These names now indicate, besides the position of the tract, the direction in which nerve impulses are conveyed. Moreover, the nuclei of nerves receiving afferent fibres are distinguished from the nuclei of origin of efferent fibres. Thus the N. terminalis nervi trigemini is distinguished from the N. originis nervi trigemini. Also, the long-overdue change with respect to the name N. acusticus has now been accomplished, and it is called the N. statoacusticus; and the "otoconia" and "maculae acusticae" are termed "statoconia" and "maculae staticae."

Some changes, however, we think will not meet with universal approval. In some cases the craze for obtaining absolute uniformity has led to obscurity in meaning or to quite unnecessary alterations. For instance, the vertical and horizontal parts of the palate bone have respectively been rendered "lamina palatina" and "lamina maxillaris." We also note that the cumbersome and incorrect name "epistropheus" for the axis vertebra has been retained, notwithstanding the criticisms which were made in 1895. The Greek word ἐπιστροφεύς signifies the object which is turned rather than the pivot around which the movement takes place; hence, rightly, the first vertebra of the neck. The name ἐπιστροφή denotes a wheeling or turning movement, such as is made in military exercises. Some alterations which are not actually incorrect are nevertheless awkward and not likely to be generally adopted—for example, in place of the comprehensive term "tunica vaginalis testis" the double name "periorchium + epidiorchium" is suggested.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the I.N.A. nomenclature is limited with few exceptions to the gross anatomy of the human subject, names applying to microscopical structure and embryology being excluded. There is, however, a distinct need for accuracy and unanimity with respect to these two branches of human anatomy,