

thought and practice in America. The whole volume is well supplied with references, there are many valuable illustrations, and the index is good. Search in various sections chosen at random has revealed that the essential practical nature of the earlier editions has been well maintained. A curious omission discovered by chance is the absence of any reference to eumydrin for congenital pyloric stenosis. One other criticism is that the section on nutritional requirements appears to be very complicated and hard to read, probably because too much material has been condensed into a relatively short space. In general, however, this can be welcomed as a first-rate contribution to medical literature.

ELEMENTARY EXPERIMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY

Experimental Physiology for Medical Students. By D. T. Harris, M.D., D.Sc., F.Inst.P., Professor of Physiology, London Hospital Medical College. Third edition. (Pp. 292; 248 illustrations and plate in colour. 15s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1941.

The third edition of this book, originally based on the intermediate medical course in physiology at University College, London, continues the valuable service rendered by previous editions. Any student who follows it through will have obtained a good introduction to the methods used in physiological inquiry, and it can be recommended to any teachers of the subject as a basis on which to build courses suitable for their own departments.

The book contains several new features, notably a re-writing of much of the chapters on the analysis of the respiratory gases and of the blood gases. On the whole these chapters have been much improved, but it is unfortunate that the Van Slyke manometric apparatus is only mentioned incidentally, and then in the form of an elaborate modification which has found little general application. It receives no mention in connection with blood gas analysis, though the Van Slyke volumetric apparatus is described. The sections dealing with tissue respiration, with special senses, and with pharmacological experiments have also received notable additions and improvements. Some new electrical apparatus will please those interested in wireless technique—for example, a neon tube stimulator, thyatron stimulator, L.F. oscillator, amplifiers, etc., but it may be doubted whether the information given about them would be of any use to the inexpert. The figures are clear and well selected, the only thing to cavil at being that the commercial illustrations of apparatus are taken from too narrow a field of makers. The printing and general get-up are all that we are accustomed to expect of Messrs. Churchill.

VERTEBRATE HISTOLOGY

The Microscopic Anatomy of Vertebrates. By James I. Kendall, Ph.D., D.Sc. Second edition. Thoroughly revised. (Pp. 342; 197 illustrations. 17s. 6d. net.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1940.

The second edition of *The Microscopic Anatomy of Vertebrates*, by Dr. James Kendall, is a revision with additional illustrations of the previous edition. The original purpose of the book was to provide a practical knowledge of the microscopic anatomy of vertebrates, founded on representative types of the various classes. The material which has been made use of has thus been derived from such types as the dogfish, Necturus, lizard, pigeon, rat, rabbit, cat, or dog. References have been made to other types, where necessary, and certain facts of comparative anatomy have been introduced, which add to the general interest of a purely structural description of the tissues. The systems and organs have been dealt with in an orderly manner, which facilitates refer-

ence, but, as sometimes happens, the strict adherence to plan has in some places led to much repetition. The introductory chapters will be especially valuable in assisting beginners, by means of stereodiagrams placed side by side with photomicrographs of the same tissue, to interpret the different appearances produced by variations in the planes of section. The author has not attempted to do more than give a general description of microscopic anatomy, and has accordingly relegated the more detailed study of certain structures, such as the brain, sense-organs, or endocrine glands, to special works in which these subjects are dealt with from the standpoint of human or comparative anatomy, in a much more exhaustive manner than is possible in a textbook limited to a general survey of the basic principles of microscopic anatomy. The author has, however, provided for this contingency by giving a valuable selection of references to the literature on the several systems, which should prove to be an assistance to further study of the particular organs and systems. There is an excellent concluding chapter on the technique of preparing sections, which contains the practical information indispensable for the laboratory worker.

The book may be highly commended as an introduction to the study of vertebrate histology and as an incentive to further study.

Notes on Books

Like many another medical man, Mr. ANDREW RUGG-GUNN has fallen under the spell of Egyptology. In his *Osiris and Odin: The Origin of Kingship* (H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 8s. 6d. net) he shows himself as an avowed "diffusionist" of the Elliot Smith school. After reciting the myth and cult of Osiris he maintains that in his migration northward this god became the Odin of Scandinavia. This view necessitated dating the introduction of Odin worship by many centuries earlier than is ordinarily done, but the author makes out a good case for so doing. A specially interesting contribution to his thesis is the map showing that the route of this migration was used on a return journey by the traffic from Jutland of the "life-giving" amber to Apollo's island of Delos. But more than amber took this journey, for if Mr. Rugg-Gunn's view is correct, Osiris, transformed into Odin, must have come back again as Zeus, accompanied by other northern deities who were established on Olympus when the Achaeans from the north invaded the Mediterranean countries. This is a point, however, which he does not raise. Agriculture, kingship, religion, form the tripod on which the Osiris and Odin cults alike rest. Mr. Rugg-Gunn traces our present discontents to the depreciation of those values, and makes an impassioned appeal for their restoration. Not everyone will agree with all the views expressed in this interesting book, but no one will question the author's deep sincerity. Incidentally a number of rather striking suggestions are made, such as that the present position in Italy is a revival of dual kingship, which has never been long in abeyance in the history of that country that in the United States society appears to be reverting to the matriarchal system, and that much of our coronation symbolism is drawn from the rites of Osiris. Altogether a pleasantly stimulating book.

A copy of the *Collected Papers from the Middlesex Hospital*, published during 1939-40, has been received from the cancer and general research committee of the hospital, and can be consulted in the Library of the British Medical Association.

For the sixteenth edition of the popular *Black's Medical Dictionary*, by the late Dr. J. D. COMRIE, extensive revision has been made and new sections on the ductless glands and on the sulphonamides added. The special wartime supplement on air-raid casualties which was included in the previous edition has also been revised in the light of practical experience. The publishers are A. and C. Black, and the price is 20s.