

REVIEWS.

OTOLOGY AND LARYNGOLOGY.

THE historical classification of diseases of the ear into the ceruminous and the non-ceruminous no doubt formerly sufficed for the teachers and the taught. Great additions have been made to our knowledge, and an acquaintance with otology is daily being felt to be a matter of necessity by the general practitioner. There must be few who will not sadly acknowledge the truth of this, and who have not to mourn the lost opportunities of their school curriculum. The truth is borne in by the necessity for post-graduate instruction, and is further emphasized by the demand for systematic works on the subject. The appearance of a second edition of Mr. MARK HOVELL'S *Treatise on the Diseases of the Ear*¹ written a comparatively few years ago fully justifies the favourable opinion we expressed when reviewing the volume in 1895.² Since then a good deal has happened to stimulate the study of otology. In 1899 the Sixth International Otological Congress was held in this country, and afforded an opportunity for an important stocktaking. The Otological Society of the United Kingdom was brought into existence by the Congress, and has done much to diffuse a knowledge of a science which it found—so far as the general profession were concerned—very much where Toynbee had left it nearly half a century ago. In view of gains such as these, the appearance of a new edition of the work under review must be most welcome to the busy practitioner who has not the time to make his own way through *Transactions* and periodicals to obtain the most recent information. The chapter on diseases of the nose, pharynx, and naso-pharynx connected with diseases of the middle ear gives a worthy representation of views generally held about such disorders. The author justly condemns the primitive method of tearing polypi from the nostrils with forceps, and without the aid of reflected light. Reference to the curetting operations under the guidance of the finger—a reversion to the primitive type—designed for the care of nasal polypi, is wisely omitted. The value of this chapter is increased by an important section on general anaesthesia in nasal and naso-pharyngeal operations, especially written for the work by Dr. Hewitt. The views expressed in the several paragraphs under this heading will, we believe, be fully endorsed by all experienced in performing operations in these regions. Mr. Hovell rightly insists upon general anaesthesia for the removal of adenoids, and consistently advocates the recumbent posture, no mention being made of nitrous oxide gas anaesthesia and the sitting posture. The selection of an instrument lies between one or other of the numerous modifications of the original forceps and curette, but an instrument for scraping, whether attached to a handle or fitted to a finger, is to be regarded as unsuitable. The chapter dealing with affections of the mastoid process has received careful revision. Inasmuch as it deals mainly with affections of the mastoid antrum, its title might perhaps be amended. A chapter on cranial and other complications of middle-ear suppuration has also been revised. Local and general affections liable to cause disorders of hearing are discussed in a separate chapter, the importance of which it is difficult to over-estimate when we remember that the book serves as an excellent guide to practitioners. The British school of otology has not ranked within recent years on an equal footing with the Continental schools in the production of textbooks. Since the brilliant work of Toynbee the textbooks in use in this country have been largely translations of those by Politzer, Gruber, and Hartmann. The balance is now being readjusted. The book before us we can recommend as a sound introduction and trustworthy guide to the study of modern otology.

A highly interesting monograph by Dr. FRIEDRICH RÖPKE, of Solingen, on *Professional Diseases of the Ear and Upper Respiratory Passages*³ forms the second volume of the "Otology of the Present Day" edited by Professor Körner of Rostock. In this volume the main stress is laid on ear affections. No special attention is given to the larynx, professional diseases result-

¹ *A Treatise on the Diseases of the Ear, including the Anatomy and Physiology of the Organ, together with the Treatment of the Affections of the Nose and Larynx which conduce to Aural Disease.* By T. Mark Hovell, F.R.C.S. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., Aural Surgeon to the London Hospital, etc. London: J. and H. Churchill. Demy 8vo, pp. 88.

² BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. 1, 1895, p. 653.

³ *Die Berufskrankheiten des Ohres und der oberen Luftwege.* Von Dr. Med. Friedrich Röpke in Solingen. Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann, and Glasgow: F. Bauermeister. 1902. (Demy 8vo, pp. 147. 58.)

ing from the use of the voice being omitted. Even with this limitation, however, the book contains an abundance of highly interesting material arranged in a systematic fashion. The whole subject is treated under six main headings: A. Professional diseases of the ear and upper respiratory tract amongst industrial workers; B. amongst agricultural labourers, etc.; C. amongst soldiers and sailors; D. amongst the employés in public conveyances and post-offices; E. amongst sportsmen (using the term in a wide sense); and F. in various avocations. Section A. is again subdivided into sixteen groups of occupations, and fills 113 pages. In Section B. the rare disease—actinomycosis of the ear—is alluded to as occurring in harvesters and threshers. The fact that ear diseases are commoner amongst sailors than soldiers is mentioned, and attention is drawn to the frequency with which tonsillitis occurs in the former, the proportion being as high as from 51.6 to 101.5 per 1,000. Section E. comprises not only sportsmen in the strict sense of the word, but also aeronauts, cyclists, footballers, pugilists, wrestlers, and acrobats. Whether Sexton's paper on boxing the ears, to which reference is made, applies to pugilists seems to us doubtful. The different vocations included in Section F. are nuns, musicians, seafaring folk, sponge and pearl divers, apothecaries, chemists, men employed in sewers, chimney sweeps, and members of fire brigades. The book has two indexes, one of the different diseases and the occupations in which they occur, the other of authors. The work contains such an enormous number of facts and references that it is impossible in a short notice to give an adequate idea of its contents. It must be read in the original, and forms, in fact, a necessary book of reference for any one interested in the subject.

Dr. HOLBROOK CURTIS, of New York, has translated the volume on *Rhinology, Laryngology, and Otology, and their Significance in General Medicine*, by Dr. Friedrich, of Leipzig, the German edition of which was reviewed in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 23rd, 1899. As we then stated, the author had deserved well of his brethren, both general and special, and Dr. Curtis, in placing a translation of the work at the disposal of English-speaking readers, has earned some reflected praise.

HISTOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

THE position of histology has for many years been a subject of debate. Some maintain that it is a mere branch of anatomy, while others regard it as more closely identified with physiology. In this country the latter view has been in the main acted upon, and histology has been fostered under the physiological wing. Dr. GUSTAV MANN'S admirable *Physiological Histology, Methods and Theory*⁴ will do much to justify the claims of English physiologists on this point, and to rivet still more firmly the links which bind histology in their province. As a matter of fact, histology is both anatomical and physiological according to the point of view from which it is approached. In its early days it was almost purely anatomical, but those who have followed its recent progress will have noted how increasingly important its physiological side has become. A study of secreting cells with the microscope has taught us much concerning the physiology of secretion; the study of the nervous system by all the improved microscopic methods at present in use has revealed to the physiologist as useful information regarding function as it has to the anatomist regarding structure. The title of Dr. Mann's book shows that it is the physiological aspect of the science that interests him most, and the point which he works out is the way in which chemistry shows itself as the all-important go-between in cementing histological to physiological endeavours. In the olden days of, say, twenty years ago, the histologist of course recognized what were the chemical reactions which underlay the effects produced by such simple reagents as silver nitrate and osmic acid; but as a rule his hardening and staining reagents were chosen, we will not say without discrimination, but at any rate, purely empirically. With the advance of chemistry all this is now changed. Organic chemistry is teaching us the chemical constitution of dyes; and physical chemistry the true nature of solutions, of colloids, and of gels. The reasons are now becoming clear why certain fixatives are better in

⁴ *Physiological Histology, Methods and Theory.* By Gustav Mann, M.D., C.M. Edin., B.Sc. Oxon., Senior Demonstrator of Physiology in the University of Oxford. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1902. (Demy 8vo, pp. 56, 15)

certain cases than others, and the microchemical meaning of staining reactions is being elucidated. All this and much more will be found fully discussed in Dr. Mann's manual, and we most heartily commend the book as the first successful effort to render the physiological basis of histology a proved fact. The book is written with the lucidity which we like to flatter ourselves is one main character of English writing; there is combined with this that admirable thoroughness which is so typical of those who hail from the Fatherland.

About four years ago, when we had occasion to notice the appearance of the fifth edition of Professor SCHÄFER'S well-known textbook, *The Essentials of Histology*,⁵ we congratulated the author on the continued popularity and success of his work. We have little to do now but to repeat our congratulations. Any lengthened review of a book which has seen six editions is superfluous. We may be content with calling attention to the numerous new illustrations which are inserted, and which add to the value and beauty of the work. The part that relates to the central nervous system has been rewritten, and this portion of the book forms a model of lucid and terse writing. The intricacies of the cord, bulb, and brain, as revealed by recent research, are rendered clear by most excellent diagrams, and the new account given of the cranial nerves strikes us as being specially valuable.

The demand for Professor STARLING'S excellent *Elements of Human Physiology*⁶ is shown by the fact that the last edition was published only about a year ago. Few alterations have been made in the present edition. We note the inclusion of Bayliss's and Starling's recent researches in connexion with the secretion of pancreatic juice. The curve (given on p. 400) of the percentage saturation of haemoglobin with oxygen at different pressures is out of date, for it has recently been considerably modified by Hüfner. On p. 71, in describing the origin of the white corpuscles, Professor Starling does not mention the marrow. Considering its clinical importance, Ehrlich's work on myelogenous leucocytosis surely deserved mention. The book is undoubtedly most suitable for the use of medical students.

In the preface to his *Physiology for Beginners* Dr. LEONARD HILL says that he has set himself the difficult task of putting in simple language the essential facts concerning the structure and function of the human body. His success would have been greater had he allowed himself more space. As it is, his book suffers from compression, and although such language as the "hotness.....of a healthy man's body" is simple enough for a suckling, it is probable that the beginner will be a little bewildered by making such rapid acquaintance with new facts and new names. Considering its concentration as necessary, Dr. Hill's work, however, could not easily have been better done. The numerous illustrations are a great help to the text, though many of them might have been more diagrammatic, with advantage to the beginner.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

SOUTH AFRICA.

WE have received a copy of the *South African Year Book, 1902-3*⁷ which appears for the first time. The claim contained in the preface that there is a need for a general and comprehensive work of reference dealing with the new South Africa will be generally admitted. The first part of the book contains lists of officials, articles on the climate and health resorts of South Africa, notes on laws affecting trades and professions, and some general articles on the natives, the fauna and the flora of South Africa, particulars as to public institutions. Government loans, steamboat and railway service, etc. This miscellaneous collection of articles is followed by a series of essays on the various

⁵ *The Essentials of Histology*. By E. A. Schäfer, LL.D., F.R.S. Sixth Edition. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1902. (Demy 8vo, pp. 416, 463 illustrations. 9s.)

⁶ *Elements of Human Physiology*. By E. H. Starling, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Professor of Physiology, University College, London. Fifth Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1902. (Demy 8vo, pp. 702, 321 illustrations. 12s. 6d.)

⁷ *Physiology for Beginners*. By Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S. London: Edward Arnold. 1902. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 124, 58 illustrations. 1s.)

⁸ London: 64, Finsbury Pavement. Cape Town: Darton Brothers and Walton.

colonies—including Rhodesia and Basutoland—and short notes upon Portuguese East Africa and German South-West Africa. Next come essays on various industries and the remainder of the book is made up of lists of members of stock exchanges and particulars of mining and other companies. There are seventeen maps large and small, and a number of illustrations. Among the maps are a pair contrasting Africa in 1802 with Africa in 1902; the contrast is striking and shows the rapid progress made during the past century in the partition if not in the civilization of the dark continent.

We have also received the tenth edition (for 1902-3) of the *Guide to South Africa*⁸ edited by Messrs. A. SAMLER BROWN and G. GORDON BROWN for the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company. This is a handy volume containing a good deal of practical information and is blest with a good index.

The fifth annual volume of the *Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte auf dem Gebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie*⁹ has just reached us. It deals with the year 1901 and is edited by Professor MENDEL and Dr. JACOBSON. It is a massive volume of over eleven hundred pages, and represents an enormous accumulation of material. The articles are classified according to the parts affected; prefixed to each section is a bibliography, and this is followed by abstracts of papers. The work has an index to names and subjects and will be found extremely valuable for reference.

The *Scottish Students' Song Book*¹¹ is a collection of songs from many sources well adapted for the delectation of students, or others *ejusdem generis*, in their symposia. It is published for the Songbook Committee of the Students' Representative Councils of Scotland, and the generosity of the various publishers and authors who have permitted their works to be reproduced in this form must be recognized. Failing this liberality it would have been impossible to issue this large mass of music at the very moderate price for which it is sold. Many of the songs find a place on account of their catchy attractiveness, not a few are inspired by the circumstances of University life, Scotch or German, and there are some which are essentially medical. "Chancellor Inglis" and "The Clinical Examination" are examples of the best known from the pens of Professor Douglas MacLagan and Dr. John Smith respectively. This is the sixth edition, and no doubt another will soon be in demand by those who adopt the motto of the book "*Gaudeamus igitur*," alike "*juvenes dum sumus*," and afterwards. In the next edition there might well be introduced "The Autocratic Doctor at Nordrach," a parody on the "Absent-minded Beggar," and also a recent parody on "*Gaudeamus*," from a German source.

The *Report of the Proceedings of the Third International Congress for the Welfare and Protection of Children*,¹² which was held in London under the presidency of Earl Beauchamp last July has been edited by Sir WILLIAM CHANCE, Bart., Hon. Treasurer, and forms a volume of some 350 pages. It is well printed, and contains, not only the papers, but also reports of discussions which took place on them.

MANCHESTER MEDICO-ETHICAL ASSOCIATION.—The fifty-fifth annual report of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association shows that during the past year a paper was presented by Dr. A. W. W. Lea on the advantages of a daily medical inspection of schools. The system was heartily approved of by the Association in the interests of public health. Professional Ethics, and the Scope of the Medico-Ethical Association, was the title of a paper read by Mr. F. H. Westmacott, who pointed out that many advantages accruing to the profession generally were due to the efforts of this Association in the earlier years of its history. The following office bearers were elected for the year 1903:—*President*: D. Lloyd Roberts, M.D. *Vice-Presidents*: C. Macfie, M.D.; J. W. Hamill, M.D.; W. Thorburn; J. C. Eames, M.D. *Honorary Treasurer*: J. Ferguson, M.D. *Honorary Secretaries*: F. H. Westmacott; S. Bayley. *Committee*: C. R. O. Garrard; W. E. Sowers Scott, M.D.; A. Stewart, M.D.; T. Harris, M.D.; A. B. Ritchie, M.B.; J. J. Fox, M.D.; E. Vipont-Brown, M.D.; D. Owen; T. W. H. Garstang; H. Lancashire, M.D. *Auditors*: E. Annacker, M.D.; J. G. Clegg, M.D.

⁹ London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co. 1902. 2s. 6d.

¹⁰ Berlin: S. Karger. London: Williams and Norgate.

¹¹ London and Glasgow: Bayley and Ferguson. Sixth edition. 3s.

¹² London: P. S. King and Son. 1902. 2s. 6d.