

A SYSTEM OF HUMAN ANATOMY, Including its Medical and Surgical Relations. By HARRISON ALLEN, M.D., Professor of Physiology in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Illustrated. SECTION VI.—ORGANS OF SENSE, DIGESTION AND GENITO-URINARY ORGANS. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co. 1883.

At this late date it would be superfluous for us to attempt an analysis of this fasciculus, since other reviewers have already so frequently done so. Having expressed our opinion of the demerits of the earlier numbers of this work elsewhere, viz., in the *Annals of Anatomy and Surgery*, we shall have great pleasure in pointing out here some of the points in which this work excels any other with which we are acquainted. The present fasciculus is, as was to be expected, an improvement on its predecessors, since the author's clinical work has lain for many years among the class of diseases affecting the organs of sense, so that he brings to bear upon these subjects not only a scientific but a practical experience. We regret to note the large number of errors, the result of careless proof-reading, but are glad to see that the author has inserted a printed slip containing many errata, which, as far as they go, tend to provide us with a correct text. It is a matter of surprise that Dr. Allen has not before resorted to this manifestly easy method of correcting errors which have been detected too late for amendment of the text. As an instance of the careless proof-reading, we would merely cite the "explanation" of plate XCV, figs. 1 and 2, which are stated to be "a structure of the cornea as seen when magnified." Now, if they are microscopic sections of any of the ocular structures or appendages they are cuts of the eyelids, for sweat-glands, hairs and hair follicles, sebaceous glands, fibrous tissue and the papillæ and epithelium of a cutaneous surface are recognizable at a glance. On the previous page there is a diagrammatic cut of the cornea numbered 128, yet the text refers in five places to figure 127, which displays the capsule of Tenon; while another reference in the same explanation of the corneal structure directs the reader to figure 129 which is "a vertical frontal section of the left eye and of the nasal chamber of the same side."

But we have already, elsewhere, mentioned the chief faults of the book, so that we shall now proceed to the much more grateful task of calling attention to the superiority, in many respects, of Dr. Allen's book over other anatomical treatises. We would especially call the attention of our readers to the fact that in no other English work is there such an accumulation of interesting facts bearing upon the causation of so-called anomalies or, more properly speaking, variations. This remark applies to the earlier numbers as well as to this fasciculus. Be-

sides these there are numberless isolated facts which, while of small value by themselves, help, when properly related to others, to elucidate more important points.

We would also commend the partial adoption of the plan, best exemplified by Braune's *Topographical Atlas*, of showing the proper relations of certain of the viscera by sections through the intact body. Omissions, to which the attention of the author has been called by various reviewers, have been atoned for by the introduction of some of the neglected facts in the section on regional surgery. This is notably the case with regard to the bursæ.

The section on Embryology and the study of malformations supplies a long-felt want, and, together with cuts of typical examples and references to authors, gives in a condensed, yet clear form, all the information which most men either desire or need. Many of the illustrations in this fasciculus are also far more satisfactory to us as artistic productions, although there is much room for improvement. Other commendable points could be dwelt upon, but sufficient has been said to indicate their general character.

In conclusion, we desire to express our satisfaction with the work as a whole, which, while it contains many errors and inaccuracies, yet atones for these in a great measure by assembling together a mass of facts relating to practical points to obtain which the student would be compelled to read widely, and that, too, in works written in many tongues.

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