

## REVIEWS.

*Surdus in Search of his Hearing: An Exposure of Deafness Quacks and a Reliable Guide to the Best Means of Help for the Deaf.* (Second section.) By EVAN YELLON. London: Evan Macleod, 1910.

Under the sub-title of "Exposure of Deafness Quacks, Frauds on the Deaf, and a Reliable Guide to the Best Means of Help for the Deaf," the author gives a reasonably correct description of this work, with the second section of which we have been favoured. The author appears himself to be the subject of extreme deafness and to be keenly interested in searching for whatever may be of benefit to his fellow-sufferers. The portion of his book which deals with "deafness quacks and quackery" is of the utmost interest. While to the aurist it is all comparatively self-evident, it will be found extremely instructive to those of the lay public who are likely to be entrapped by the individuals whose methods are described (p. 10). He advises the deaf to keep out of the hands of one of them, but since the publication of his book the hand of human justice has done away with any further possibility of fraud on his part. A very temperate and convincing chapter on the difference between advertising quacks and qualified specialists is well worth perusal. In the part of the book dealing with genuine aids for the deaf, including various forms of speaking trumpets, electric aids, etc., great prominence is given to the apparatuses devised by one well-known maker in the Strand, but there is another one in Oxford Street whose elegant and efficient appliances also deserve the highest meed of praise. Everyone should read the chapter on the self-cure of tinnitus or noises in the head which induces a form of relief and consolation which, though hardly worthy of the name of cure, is calculated to be a great blessing to those who are suffering from this peculiarly distressing and obstinate symptom. It consists mainly in the voluntary endeavour to blend with the tinnitus the recollection of sounds, musical or spoken, which may stir up agreeable emotions. Whether the practice of these auto-suggestive methods is likely to have a strengthening effect on the mental fibre is somewhat doubtful, but it will be generally admitted that if they counteract the depressing effect of the tinnitus they have certainly a field of usefulness of their own. The writer's opinion with regard to the curative effect of vibration and discharging ears will appeal to the lay reader rather than to the professional one, but his views on open-air recreations for the deaf must, and will, command respect and attention.

The book is written with such conviction and brightness that our readers will be grateful for having their attention drawn to it.

Dundas Grant.

*Hay-fever and Paroxysmal Sneezing (Vaso-motor Rhinitis).* By EUGENE S. YONGE, M.D. Edin. Edinburgh and London: Wm. Green and Sons, 1910, pp. 150. With 2 coloured plates.

Dr. E. S. Yonge is already favourably known to us as the author of a well-written book upon nasal polypus, in which the closely reasoned style of his writing marked him down for distinction. In a field already strewn with discarded theories Dr. Yonge was bold enough to throw down another gage of battle, and if he did not carry the day he nevertheless won our applause as a doughty dialectic champion. In this, his

further essay in medical literature, Dr. Yonge eschews controversy. With one or two exceptions he produces no new facts to arrest our attention, no novel theories to start us thinking. As a consequence his book may in this respect occasion some disappointment to his *confrères* in the special domain of rhinology, but, taken for what it is—an exhaustive and readable compilation of more or less familiar facts and views upon hay-fever and paroxysmal sneezing—his latest work is worthy of every approbation.

The exceptions in the way of novelties, at which we have hinted, are to be found in the section on treatment. One of them is the method of treating hay-fever, suggested and carried out by the author, and no doubt already known to our readers, namely, resection of the nasal branch of the fifth nerve in the orbit as it passes from the posterior to the anterior ethmoidal foramen. The operation is not difficult, but with admirable honesty Dr. Yonge now tells us that its benefits, though considerable at first, have not hitherto proved to be permanent, save in one or two cases.

The other novelty is the recommendation to spokeshave the septal tubercles for the cure of vaso-motor rhinorrhœa (a more suitable term than vaso-motor “rhinitis”). This method of treatment, for which he expresses his indebtedness to Mr. R. Lake, of London, the author has found very successful. So far as we are aware the operation is not in general use, but there is no doubt that Dr. Yonge’s advocacy of it will ensure its careful trial.

The book throughout bears traces of wide reading, and the bibliography is particularly complete; but we were unable to find any allusion to Mr. Francis’s method of cauterising the septum in paroxysmal rhinorrhœa and asthma—a method which is gradually gaining popularity, though not invariably successful. With regard to Dunbar’s treatment of hay-fever by pollantin and Weichardt’s treatment of the same disease by graminol, the author, although he describes them in full detail, discreetly refrains from expressing any decided opinion upon their results—a point in which discretion is not necessarily the better part of valour.

We conclude with a word of gratitude for the extremely interesting historical summaries with which the author introduces his subject. They are at once brief and complete, and show that Dr. Yonge has no slight acquaintance with the classic literature of Greece and Rome. With reference to the question, *Cur sternuentes salutamus?* which the author thinks is still unanswered, may we remind him that, according to some authorities, the “good luck” of sneezing lay in the belief that the sneezer thereby got rid of an evil spirit? Probably, however, the real explanation may be found in the simple fact that sneezing (in moderation) induces a pleasant feeling of lightness and refreshment—surely quite sufficient cause for congratulation in this world of dull days.

D. M.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*Atlas of Radiography of the Mastoid Region and of the Accessory Sinuses.*  
By JOSEPH C. BECK M.D. St. Louis: The Laryngoscope Co., 1911.