REVIEWS

A TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE HAIR. BY GEORGE THOMAS JACKSON, M.D., Professor of Dermatology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department of Columbia University, and CHARLES WOOD McMURTRY, M.D., Instructor in Dermatology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department of Columbia University, New York. Pp. 366; 109 engravings and 10 colored plates. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger, 1912.

In this treatise the authors have endeavored to present "all that is known about diseases of the hair and scalp;" and they have performed their task with a thoroughness and wealth of detail that has left no aspect of the subject unconsidered. It is divided into five sections: Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene of the Hair; Essential Diseases of the Hair; Inflammatory Diseases of the Hair Follicles; Parasitic Diseases of the Hair; and Diseases of the Hair Secondary to Diseases of the Skin.

The excellent chapter on the care of the hair and scalp concludes with a short section on barber shops and hair-dressing establishments which are regarded as "The most fertile single source of spreading diseases of the hair and scalp;" and some much needed advice is given concerning the proper management of such establishments, advice which if followed would go far to eliminate the danger of transmitting disease.

Among other important essential diseases of the hair the various forms of alopecia are considered at length. The authors regard some form of seborrhea as the exciting cause of one of the commonest forms of premature loss of hair, alopecia pityrodes; and they put themselves squarely on the side of the contagionists, declaring that "As seborrheal dermatitis and pityriasis steatoides are contagious diseases, and very prevalent, the wonder is not that so many people lose their hair, but that more do not." The parasitic origin of alopecia areata, however, which has many supporters, especially among the French, is not regarded as proved although it is not to be altogether rejected. Among the many medicinal agents recommended for stimulating the growth of hair in the several varieties of baldness pilocarpin is believed to be of decided value while crude petroleum which has long had a con-

siderable reputation, particularly among the laity, as a hair grower has been found useless.

The parasitic diseases of the scalp and beard are treated at great length, 65 pages being devoted to the subject of ringworm alone, a subject which is treated in a manner fully justifying the authors' statement made in the preface that "In no other book, excepting those of Sabouraud, will be found so complete a presentation of what is known about ringworm." Of the forty species of fungi concerned in the production of this very common malady enumerated by Sabouraud, twelve of the commonest are described together with the clinical symptoms and cultural features peculiar to each. In the treatment of this usually obstinate and troublesome affection preference is given to the x-ray when this is available, employing the technique of Sabouraud.

But one form of seborrhea is recognized, seborrhea oleosa, the seborrhea sicca of the text-books being in the opinion of the authors, not a seborrhea at all. This latter affection is described as pityriasis of which there are two forms, pityriasis simplex and pityriasis steatoides, the latter form being identical with eczema seborrhoicum. The bacterial origin of seborrhea is regarded as probable but not yet proved, but pityriasis simplex is believed to be caused by the organism first described by Malassez identical with the *flaschenbacillus* of Unna.

The majority of the diseases discussed in the final section of the treatise, including such affections as, acne necrotica, psoriasis, lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, etc., are, of course, not diseases of the hair at all, but are included because they frequently occur upon the scalp or other hairy regions.

The volume is well illustrated, containing more than a hundred engravings and ten colored plates, most of them of unusual excellence, which add much to its value.

In conclusion, this treatise which is remarkably complete and up to date, is easily the best work upon diseases of the hair which has yet appeared.

M. B. H.

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS. By H. C. WOOD, JR., M.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia. Pp. 429; 26 illustrations. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1912.

IN his text-book on Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Dr. Wood writes clearly and concisely and with not more than the necessary dogmatism. He has eliminated non-essentials and confusing discussions of facts which are of doubtful interpretation. His grouping of drugs is based on what he considers their most important therapeutic application, and as therapeutics is emphasized as strongly as pharmacology, such an arrangement is a logical one.