

REVIEWS.

A TEXT-BOOK OF PHYSIOLOGIC CHEMISTRY FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICINE AND PHYSICIANS. By CHARLES E. SIMON, M.D., of Baltimore, Md. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1901.

THIS text-book, while not so encyclopædic in scope as some of the standard German works on physiologic chemistry, contains all that the student of medicine and the physician for whom the book is written need know. The author has adopted the wise plan of avoiding all theoretic discussion, and limits himself to a clear, concise, and well ordered exposition of the facts of chemical physiology.

A careful review of the different chapters fails to reveal a single statement that is not fully in accord with the most recent research. The author is conservative, and does not often indulge in apodictic statements; where he does so, he is in full agreement with the best recognized authorities.

The book is fully up to date—the more recent discoveries in the field of the oxidizing tissue-ferments, of coagulation by nucleo-histon, of the purin bases, etc., are fully and adequately described and characterized. At the same time the classical facts of the science are presented in a precise and comprehensive manner. It also possesses two negative virtues. In the first place, the author wisely refrains from wandering into the clinical field; this temptation very few writers on this subject have been able to resist; the author has enhanced the value of his work by limiting himself strictly to the chemical and physiological aspects of the subject without attempting to teach pathological chemistry or chemical diagnosis; it is possible Dr. Simon realizes that he has treated these two subjects exhaustively in a separate publication, and is anxious to avoid repetitions.

In the second place, happily, all literature references are omitted. Whoever has been forced to seek his way through the protean array of names, titles, and page numbers that disfigure the average text-book of this character will henceforth feel a sigh of relief to find the path so clear and unnumbered. Literature references are of value to the original investigator and not to the student and the practitioner. It is really a matter of indifference to the beginner whether A or B or C has discovered this, that, or the other fact. Such is futility. Even the investigator, if he is an investigator, will not be content with those references that are given by any one author in a text-book; he will want the *complete* literature, and will consult an index of his specialty. Wherever we see too many names and too many quotations we place the burden of proof on the author to show that his book is not a mere compilation.

The book is a pioneer; it is the first large text-book of physiological chemistry that has been written in America; it is timely, for we are on the threshold of a new era in scientific medicine; physiological chem-

istry, we believe, is destined to throw much light into the obscure recesses that are around us and in front of us.

We welcome Dr. Simon's book most cordially; it fills a want and deserves a place on the shelves of every thoughtful and progressive physician.

A. C. C.

A LABORATORY HANDBOOK OF URINE ANALYSIS AND PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY. By G. CHARLES L. WOLF, B.A., M.D., Instructor of Physiological Chemistry, Cornell University Medical College, New York. Illustrated. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1901.

This unpretentious little volume fulfils the purpose for which it is written. The first part of the book deals with some of the simpler exercises in physiological chemistry. In the second part, a brief sketch of the most common methods of urinary and gastric analysis are described.

Particular attention is given to clinical questions. There are a number of tables of urinary diagnosis at the end of the book that are conveniently arranged for reference, and present much that is described in the text in a diagrammatic form.

In the preface the author modestly disclaims completeness for his volume; the book certainly contains all that the average medical student at the average American medical college can assimilate within the short time usually allotted to the laboratory study of physiological chemistry—so that in the hands of a competent laboratory instructor the little book should prove a useful guide.

A. C. C.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE TEETH AND THEIR TREATMENT. By EUGENE S. TALBOT, M.D., D.D.S., Professor of Dental and Oral Surgery, Northwestern University Woman's Medical School, Chicago, etc. Fourth edition, with 580 illustrations. Pp. 537 and Index. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company, 1901.

A VAST amount of research is represented in the work before us, much of it valuable and interesting, and much that is open to criticism, both as to its scientific accuracy and as to the deductions drawn. One gathers the impression from a critical study of the work that the author in his endeavor to defend his main contention of the constitutional origin of dental irregularities has belittled and practically ignored the evidence on the other side of the question, for unlimited and unanswerable data are at hand to demonstrate that many cases of dental irregularity do arise solely from local causes.

Many of the statements are involved and lack clearness, while others are self-contradictory; thus, at page 15 we find "the peculiarity in the size and shape of the jawbone may be inherited, but the manner of the eruption of the teeth is not transmitted, hence irregularities of the dental arch *per se* are not inherited. The muscles of the cheeks have nothing to do with the production of the V- or saddle-arch. The only