A text-book which comes to us under the sign and authority of so distinguished an investigator in the field of microscopic anatomy as Dr. MacCallum is sure to find a ready place and hearty welcome, and an examination of the contents fully justifies the high position accorded it. The text is admirable, and the illustrations, both colored and other, as good as the publisher's art can make them.

The volume is based upon the valuable plan of tracing, as far as may be, the development of the organs and the histogenesis of the tissues, from which viewpoint the histology is considered. The editor has, moreover, emphasized the structural units of organs with which idea the work of his master, Professor Mall, has been so richly rewarded. Besides the original descriptions and plates, many additions have been introduced, as in the section on the medulla and mid-brain, where the invaluable assistance of Dr. Florence R. Sabin has been available, and in still other sections, *i. e.*, the lymphatic glands, where Calvert's diagram is introduced, and the adrenal, in which Flint's reconstruction is made use of.

The descriptive diagrams with which many of the full-page lithographs are supplied are excellent. No better method for unravelling the intricacies of microscopic anatomy is available, and the fullness, precision, and clearness of both drawings and descriptions are most commendable.

F.

LE TRAITEMENT DE LA CONSTIPATION. Par le DR. FROUSSARD. Paris: J. B. Ballière et Fils, 1903.

THIS short treatise on the treatment of constipation is, as the title implies, chiefly devoted to physiological methods of treatment, including massage, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and gymnastic exercises, and contains many useful hints for the management and cure of this baffling and annoying symptom. The author's conception of the pathology of constipation is not without originality. He divides the cases into three groups, according as spasm or atony—the two principal causal conditions—predominate or coexist and alternate one with the other. In the first group the large intestine is resistant, contracts vigorously and even painfully on excitation with the palpating hand; there is distention, but not dilatation. The second group is characterized by both spasm and atony; that is, the two conditions alternate. The bowel is described as in a condition of "exaggerated and temporary repose." The third group, which comprises the most inveterate cases, is marked by a total absence of spasm; the intestine cannot be felt directly, and its position in the abdomen can be made out only by palpating the fecal contents. Great stress is laid on the necessity of recognizing the presence of spasm, as it has an important bearing on the choice of therapeutic methods. At first only functional, the hypertrophy of the muscle if it persists becomes structural, and unless the muscular coat is relieved of the extra work hypertrophy is eventually replaced by atony. Treatment is discussed under two heads, that of spasmodic and that of atonic constipation. These chapters contain full directions as to regimen and diet, as well as a description of the various electric, hydrotherapeutic, and mechanotherapeutic methods of treatment, with their indications

and full technical directions. Massage and hydrotherapy, including the internal use of water or "coloclysis," the technique of which is fully described, should form the main dependence of the therapist; laxatives are admissible solely for the purpose of exciting a single evacuation, never as routine remedies.

R. M. G.

"LES ACTUALITÉS MÉDICALES." LA GOUTTÉ ET SON TRAITEMENT. By E. APERT. Paris : J. B. Ballière et Fils.

APERT presents in this work, which is one of a series of essays, an admirable review on gout. He gives the classical picture of gout, and, as would be expected, has drawn most of his material from English sources, although Trousseau, Dieulafoy, Bouchard, Bécclère, and others have been freely quoted. Several radiographs illustrating the difference in the affections of the joints in gout and chronic rheumatism are of value, as well as those of the deformities and the tophi commonly seen in severe cases. The chapters on the Attack of Gout; Gouty Temperament; Gout, its Evolution, Abarticular Forms and Etiology, present the classical picture so often described.

The chapters on treatment are thorough, and especially interesting are those relating to the hydromineral treatment and to the newer remedies, all of which are mentioned, as is their composition. The chapter on Hydromineral Treatment should prove especially valuable when one is in doubt as to which particular bath or cure a certain case be referred. Apert aptly closes by insisting on the value of care, diet, exercise, and hygiene as far exceeding the value of any or all drugs.

E. A. H.

ATLAS AND EPITOME OF HUMAN HISTOLOGY AND MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY. By DR. JOHANNES SOBATTA. Edited, with extensive editions, by G. CARL HUBER, M.D. Authorized translation from the German. With 171 illustrations on 80 lithographic plates, and 68 text illustrations. Philadelphia and London : W. B. Saunders & Co., 1903.

THE poverty in the English language of text-books on histology has been turned in the last few years into a state of plentitude that is rapidly becoming embarrassing. The teacher of histology is confronted at this day, in the selection of a text-book for students, with a perplexing problem, but the perplexity arises not from the inadequacy of the available books, but because of the difficulties of choosing between those of excellent merit. This condition is, to say the least, a desirable one, and one that reflects the changes which have come over the manner of teaching histology in medical schools. The growth of laboratories and of objective teaching of all kinds, and the replacement of "show" specimens of cells and tissues with the objects prepared by the student, whose property they become, have brought, by necessity, an improved form of manual adapted to the wider uses of a broadened course in histology. Two essentials are now required of a text-book on histology: the text