

volume, these sketches are destined to become a familiar work in the physician's library and such should be their happy lot.

The biographies are arranged chronologically, beginning with Galen, ending with Darwin, and including Aretaeus, Paracelsus, Servetus, Vesalius, Paré, Scheele, Cavendish, Hunter, Jenner, Laennec, Simpson, Semmelweiss, Schleiden, and Schwann. They are for the most part admirably written and fascinating enough to beguile the working hours of many jealous minutes.

We liked especially the literary charm of the opening lines of "Servetus" and the pathos of the subsequent text; the stillness of night, where one "Might almost hear the sigh of all the sleepers in the world, and all the rivers running to the sea," is superbly painted as a background to the meeting with Vesalius. But all the sketches are well written and interesting even the one of Cavendish, of whom Robinson says "I defy any biographer to write an interesting sketch of Henry Cavendish." He seems to have picked up his own gauntlet.

We have now to censor the author for dedicating his volume both to the profession and to the public at large, for we deem certain lines questionable taste, even in these days of "Les Avariés" and like works. We mean the certain lines in Aretaeus, Paré, and the totally unnecessary liberty, (shall we say flippancy?) with which the author describes certain intimate details of Cavendish's existence. Were the book to end its days on the shelves of the doctor's sanctum, these lines might perhaps be understood, but we feel that since it is to be read by the general public the lines above mentioned are sure to be read as prurient stuff, for to the lay mind, they add nothing to the story except a little spice.

The volume is most enjoyable, and has the unique claim of presenting valuable information dressed in the best of literary cloth.

E. H. G.

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HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. By Professor LUIGI LUCIANI, Director of the Physiological Institute of the Royal University of Rome. Translated by FRANCES A. WELBY. Edited by DR. M. CAMIS. With a preface by J. N. LANGLEY, F.R.S. In four volumes. Vol. II. Pp. 558; 141 illustrations. New York: The Macmillan Company.

THERE is need of a large work on physiology in the English language. The books of this type which are now in existence are ten or more years old and are in great need of revision. This translation is of value to the student whose interest in physiological problems is not restricted to the rather superficial consideration given to them in the average text-book.

The first chapter is devoted to the internal secretions which are treated in a most interesting manner. The chapter on the external digestive secretions is equally interesting. In passing it may be of interest to note that the author is not in sympathy with the theory of Bayliss and Starling concerning the function of secretin. These investigators believe that they found a hormone (internal secretion in the mucous membrane of the duodenum) which is able to excite pancreatic cells producing secretion of that gland in the normal animal. He presents considerable evidence to refute this theory which is at the present time generally held.

Digestion in the various regions of the alimentary canal is next considered and is followed by a chapter having the vague title of internal restitutive secretions and which includes a study of the complex processes by which the individual groups of foodstuffs are absorbed, stored and finally poured out into the blood to compensate for the losses following functional work and assimilation. The next is one of the most valuable chapters in the volume. It considers the intestine as an organ of excretion. The average student does not fully appreciate how much work has been done in showing how valuable the intestines are as organs of excretion, for the text-books do not give this subject sufficient consideration. The final chapters are on the excretion of urine and the functions of the skin.

The translator has done excellent work, the illustrations are good, and the references are brought up almost to the present. E. L.

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STOMATOLOGY IN GENERAL PRACTICE. A TEXT-BOOK OF DISEASES OF THE TEETH AND MOUTH FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By H. P. PICKERILL, M.D., CH.B., M.D.S. (Birm.), L.D.S. (Eng.), Hon. Stomatologist to the General Hospital, Dunedin; Professor of Dentistry and Director of the Dental School in the University of Otago, etc. Pp. 268; 65 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press.

THERE is no region in the body that has been more neglected by the general medical practitioner than the mouth and its associated parts. This has been due in great measure to the development of dentistry as a separate profession. There is a wide field, including the inflammatory and other diseases of the soft tissues of the mouth and of the jaw bones, the manifestations of systemic diseases within the mouth, and the effects of oral disturbances upon the general system, that has not received sufficient attention either from medical men or dentists. Pickerill has covered the somewhat indefinite area included under