

The beginner will be daunted by its great size, over 1,200 pages, and the expert will consider very much of even its best efforts entirely unnecessary as far as he is concerned.

The illustrations of all kinds are very fine and carry their messages lucidly.

The International Clinics, a Quarterly.

Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Price, \$2 per volume.

The entire twenty-fourth series of the above publication, for 1914, in four volumes, in the well-known wine-colored binding, is on the reviewer's desk. If there were room available several pages of the Journal could be profitably devoted to an extended notice of their contents, but when contributors are constantly appealing for the more prompt publication of their valuable articles, brevity must characterize reviews.

Volume I deals with "Treatment" of various conditions. "The Importance of Frequent Medical Examinations," "The Ulcer Suspect," "Alimentary Toxaemia, and Skin Diseases," "Thrombosis and Embolism," "Surgical Treatment of Infantile Paralysis," "Interesting Surgical Cases"—principally bone cases—and the "Progress of Medicine During 1913." Under the latter head the improvement in medical education and the reduction in the number of medical graduates is considered. The estimate given is that "this decrease will, in fifteen years, diminish the ratio to half what it is at present," so that there will be by that time only about one physician to 1,200 people. At five dollars each per annum for that number of inhabitants it would amount to a salary of \$6,000 to that one physician. This article is the composite production of Drs. Henry W. Cattell, James A. Walk and Samuel E. Wilson, all of Philadelphia, and suggests curious possibilities.

Volume II deals with "Diagnosis and Treatment," "Medicine," "Surgery," "Obstetrics," and "Child Welfare." It contains between 70 and 80 illustrations. Some very interesting points are presented by "The Present Status of the Roentgen Ray." The vexed subject of "The Open Operation for the Fixation of Fractures" is presented by Frank Martin, of the University of Maryland. A brief but notable contribution is "Blood Transfusion by Vein-Puncture Method," by William A. Steel, of Philadelphia. The last article is a powerful plea for the "Teaching of Sex Hygiene," by Maria M. Vinton, A.M., M.D., Medical School Inspector, New York City.

Volume III treats of the same general subjects as the preceding, with the addition of 25 pages on "Electro-therapeutics." The uses of static electricity in treatment are thoroughly considered, especially in neuritis, though other mental and nervous conditions are studied. Some interesting experiments in "Prophylactic Vaccination Against Pertussis" resulted in only a doubtful degree of protection. One of the most interesting features is a brief article by Ralph Pemberton, of the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, on the "Nature and Successful Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis." Every physician is anxious to learn of some "successful treatment" for that mysterious and obstinate condition.

Volume IV contains about thirty articles, among which are "Abderhalden's Biological Diagnosis of Pregnancy," Longaker on "Painless Childbirth or

Semi-Narcosis in Obstetrics," two papers on Pneumonia, three on Radium and one by Gustavus Eliot on "The Most Valuable Drugs of Vegetable Origin," among which none of the newer drugs find place. He selects ten drugs giving each a synopsis of its uses. They are opium, quinine, aconite, digitalis, ergot, ipecac, belladonna, aloes, gelsemium and strychnine. Under "Surgery" 25 pages are devoted to "A Visit to the Mayo Clinics in Rochester." Under "Medico-Legal" Lorenzo D. Bulette Esq., contributes "Performing an Operation Without the Consent of the Patient."

To undertake to criticize International Clinics would be an unnecessary task. Their standard is known to the entire medical world. The physician who is systematically accumulating a modern medical library buys them as a matter of course. Whether it pays other doctors to purchase occasional copies is for them to decide. This review can only hope to present a few brief hints as to the matter they contain. Finally, the physical workmanship of the volumes is all that could be desired, and many of the colored plates are really works of art.

A Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences.

Embracing the entire range of Scientific and Practical Medicine and Allied Science. By various writers. Third edition, completed, revised and rewritten. Edited by Thomas Lathrop Stedman, A.M., M.D. Complete in eight imperial quarto volumes. Volume IV, 925 double-column pages, illustrated by 973 engravings and 5 full-page plates in colors. Wm. Wood & Co., New York. Price, cloth, \$7; leather, \$8, half Morocco, \$9, net.

To write of such a work anything worthy to be called a review would require far more space than can be allotted to it here. The book is really a gigantic undertaking perfectly carried out. A glance at the list of contributors reveals such names as Charles Lewis Allen, of the University of California; Adolf Alt, of Washington University; Bartlett, of Yale; Dawborn, of Fordham, and scores of other famous men contributing to the number of 444 special articles. They tell the tale of a treasury of recent medical and surgical knowledge unsurpassed. The illustrations, however, are not uniformly of high grade, but the colored plates are superb. The reference handbook occupies a place in medical literature that is highly important, and the editors and publishers are to be congratulated on their success in achieving a notable work.

Embryology.

Qualitative Chemical Analysis.

A Laboratory Manual of Qualitative Chemical Analysis.

By A. R. Bliss, Jr., M.D., Ph.G., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the Birmingham Medical College. Octavo of 244 pages, with working tables. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

This is a compact, well-constructed book of 240 pages, conveniently arranged for use by students or investigators. It is divided into paragraphs of convenient length, and at suitable intervals blank pages are interpolated for personal notes and observations. There is an abundance of

working tables, and altogether the work seems complete. Chemistry is a positive subject, like mathematics, and so long as its statements are correct, lucidly expressed and sufficiently comprehensive, there is little else to be said about any book devoted to its teaching. Such seems to be the condition in the work under consideration.

A Laboratory Manual and Text-Book of Embryology.

By Charles W. Prentiss, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Microscopic Anatomy in the Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Octavo of 400 pages, with 368 illustrations, many of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$3.75.

The fascinating subject of embryology is adequately expressed in this elegant volume. Every step in the development of the perfect organism

from the original cell is minutely studied, and the diagrams and illustrations are all that could be desired. No one who carefully considers the development of, say the caustic ganglia and nerves, or the pneumogastric nerve, as shown and described in this volume, can fail to be impressed with the wonder and mystery of it all. It is a small mind that can see therein nothing but a series of physico-chemical developments unalterably fixed by laws of accidental subdivisions, for if the principle that still guides and controls development originated without conscious direction it was, and is, a gigantic fortuity.

Looking at the book from a "practical" standpoint, the reviewer can find nothing superfluous or to be desired. Every specialist in embryology will have ideals hard to be realized in any single publication, but even such an one would find this work ample for teaching purposes in any medical college laboratory.

SOUTHERN MEDICAL NEWS

ALABAMA.

At Mobile, Dr. E. D. Bondurant, Dean of the Medical School of the University of Alabama, has been quite ill, having had alarming hemorrhages from his stomach. He has improved sufficiently to be taken to Philadelphia for an operation.

At Tuscaloosa the school inspector has found about 60 or more cases of trachoma in the public schools. The city has employed a trained nurse to look after these children. Those with purulent lesions are sent home and report at school at regular intervals for treatment by the nurse. Dr. I. E. Herring, of the U. S. P. H. Service, is present at the request of the county health officer to make a survey of the county.

The city and county of Tuscaloosa have elected an all-time health officer, who takes the place of the City and County Health Officer and School Inspector, thus assuming the duties of the previous three men. Dr. J. J. Durrett, of Tuscaloosa County, a recent graduate of Harvard, was elected at a salary of \$2,400 a year.

The Druid City Infirmary Association, a recent corporation of local physicians, has taken over the Williamson & Faulk Infirmary, on Broad Street.

At Decatur the city water supply has been analyzed by Ray C. Warner, of Atlanta, of the Georgia State Health Department, and declared "free from all bacteria which would cause diseases in human beings."

Dr. R. M. Cunningham, City Health Officer of Birmingham announced March 30th that there were 65 cases of scarlet fever in the city. The number of cases of smallpox was rapidly diminishing, but there was a large increase in the number of cases of measles, there being over 135 cases. During the month of February there were seventeen accidental deaths. There has been a very large decrease in the negro birth rate.

Dr. H. N. Rosse, County Health Officer of Jefferson County, states that about one-fourth of all

the cases of hydrophobia reported in Alabama come from Jefferson County, and that figures show that the disease is on the increase in the county. He orders the muzzling of all dogs allowed to run at large.

The State Board of Medical Examiners during March examined 35 applicants for licenses to practice medicine. Fourteen of the applicants were successful.

Dr. Charles A. Mohr, City Health Officer of Mobile, announces that during the past few months the watershed has been so thoroughly protected that for the past month no colon bacilli were found in the city water. House to house inspection continues. The death rate per annum in Mobile for February was 15.89.

At Montgomery during February and March between five and six thousand people have been vaccinated by the city physicians, and an equal number have been issued to the physicians of the city free. The provisions for patients at the smallpox hospitals are ample, the care is excellent and entertainment is provided. It is estimated that including school children nearly 1,300 persons have been vaccinated.

Deaths.

At Columbia, March 16th, Dr. A. B. Harrison, aged 82 years.

At Dixon's Mills, January 12th, Dr. J. S. Skinner.

At Vincent, February 18th, Dr. B. H. Smothera, aged 50 years, from pneumonia.

ARKANSAS.

The State Medical Association meets in Little Rock on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 3, 4, 5, 6, 1915.

At Ft. Smith, March 14th, the Tenth Council District of the Arkansas Medical Association met at the Hotel Main. In the absence of the President, Dr. J. A. Fergus, the Vice-President, Dr. Clark Wood, presided.