

The Use of the Microscope. By Dr. CARL FRIEDLAENDER, Berlin. Translated by H. C. COE., M.D. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1885. Pp. x., 189.¹

This manual of microscopic technique has passed through two editions within two years in Germany, and this admirable translation deserves to be known widely here. Friedländer, as privat-docent in the University of Berlin, has had considerable experience in giving laboratory instruction, and is therefore familiar with the needs of the student of medical microscopy. He knows just what questions an inexperienced man will ask about the microscope, the instruments necessary to cut, handle, and mount specimens, the manner of preserving specimens, the methods of staining sections, and the way to detect micro-organisms. He attempts to answer these questions in a simple and easily intelligible manner in this book, and he has succeeded. At the same time he has not neglected the wants of the skilled microscopist, for such a one will find many of the latest and most approved methods of staining given in ample detail. It is evident, therefore, that the work fulfils all that can be demanded. It is an additional point in its favor that the information which it gives is presented in a very concise form, and put by the American publishers into a small, portable shape, which is well printed and carefully indexed, and in all respects superior to the German edition.

For the neurologist the book has considerable value, as it contains a description of the recently-discovered methods of embedding in celloidin, of preserving by Erlitzki's fluid, and of staining by acid fuchsin and by Weigert's hematoxylin process. In fact, a special reference is made to the central nervous system under almost every staining method given, and the exact appearance obtained by the various stains is clearly described. While most of the methods given are familiar to those who are at work in laboratories, and are doubtless to be found in their note-books, yet it will be a matter of convenience to many to find these recent methods brought together and readily accessible. It is natural that much attention should be paid by the author to the subject of micro-organisms and their detection. For the tubercle bacillus he prefers the method of staining of Ehrlick, stating correctly that all others are only more or less important modifications of it, while it is perfectly reliable and has not been surpassed. Rindfleisch's suggestion that the entire process can be hastened by heat is approved. It is no small advantage to be told exactly the reason for each step in the process, and what the effect of the various reagents upon the tissue examined is. The examination of fluids is described in an important chapter with some detail; that of tumors, on the other hand, is barely touched upon as passing beyond the limits of the book. The only illustrations given are of various kinds of micro-organisms.

¹ Another translation of this book has been prepared by G. P. Putnam's Sons.—ED.

It is impossible to condense an exhaustive study of histology or pathology into a manual of microscopy. The latter, however, cannot be used to advantage without the aid of a book upon the former containing numerous well-drawn illustrations. Such a work enables the student to compare his own preparations with those of others. Recent works of this character are not wanting, however, and will be of all the more use to those who follow Friedländer's instructions.

M. A. STARR.

Sleep-Walking and Hypnotism. By D. HACK TUKE, M.D., LL.D. P. Blakiston, Son, & Co., Philadelphia, 1884. Pp. 119.

Several essays are included in this volume. The first, on "Sleep-Walking," was read before the British Medical Association a year ago. This contains little that is new. The writer does not claim novelty in his work, and announces that the primary object is to draw renewed attention to sleep-walking. To further this end he publishes a list of questions to which he solicits answers. He adds no cases in the few he cites which present essentially new features. Among these he gives the following, with the accompanying remarks :

"One of the most remarkable among the deeds performed by sleep-walkers communicated to me occurred in the person of a mental physician when holding the post of assistant medical officer in a large asylum, and attested by the exceptional evidence of another physician. It is a splendid instance of unconscious reflex action of the brain—the train of events originating entirely from without. On one occasion, when making his usual morning visit in a detached ward occupied by more excited patients, he was about to leave when the nurse said :

" 'You have n't seen the new patient, sir.' "

" 'What new patient?' said Dr. Blank.

" 'The patient you brought over during the night, sir.' "

" 'I brought no patient over during the night,' was the reply.

" 'Dr. Blank,' said the amazed nurse, 'I'll let you see the woman,' whereupon she opened the door of a room and showed him a maniacal patient.

"The fact was that Dr. Blank had been roused from bed, had dressed, and had gone down stairs and examined the admission papers. He had received the patient, and as she was much excited, had gone out of doors to this detached room for her ; yet in the morning all this was utterly forgotten. Nothing but seeing the patient then would convince the doctor that the event had occurred, and even seeing her did not recall the very faintest recollection of her admission.

"It does not appear that he had made any entry of the admission in a book, but, of course, he must have conversed with those who brought the patient to the asylum."

Dr. Tuke calls this a "very striking example of mental operations performed in sleep, and entire absence of recollection of them