

is especially qualified to write, for his twenty-one years' practical experience in Egypt gives him an intimate knowledge of disease as it exists in that country.

The present volume contains sections upon some of the infectious diseases. We presume, however, that there must be at least one more volume upon the infectious diseases, since in Part I there are no descriptions of such important conditions as tuberculosis, syphilis, pneumonia, malaria, and Asiatic cholera. Many of the affections that occur only occasionally in Egypt, among which it is surprising to find typhoid fever, are discussed with but a cursory notice. Reference is made to the larger text-books for full descriptions. More space is given to relapsing fever, infectious jaundice, and Mediterranean fever. At least one-half the book is devoted to discussions upon plague, bilharziasis, ankylostomiasis, and pellagra. These chapters are most interesting, not so much from the picture which the author gives of the disease as from the delightful and very full discussions upon the historical aspect, the epidemiology, and sociological problems concerned in their occurrence and presence in Egypt. His intimate knowledge of the works of Arabic physicians lends especial charm to the historical description.

To each chapter is appended a short bibliography covering at least many of the important papers upon the subject.

The arrangement of the book is bad. The two diseases bilharziasis and ankylostomiasis due to animal parasites scarcely follow in order after plague, while it is surprising to find pellagra considered among the definite infectious diseases. The book, however, is interesting and well written, serving to give a good idea of the prevalence and occurrence of certain diseases in Egypt. W. T. L.

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PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS, INCLUDING DISEASES OF THE THORACIC AND ABDOMINAL ORGANS. A MANUAL FOR STUDENTS AND PHYSICIANS. By EGBERT LE FEVRE, M.D. Second edition. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1905.

DR. LE FEVRE'S book, which now appears in its second edition, is already favorably known as a standard text-book on physical diagnosis, particularly adapted by its size and scope to the needs of students. One special feature which distinguishes this work from most others of similar scope is the large share of attention devoted to questions of physics and physiology, and to the way in which the phenomena observed in the chest are influenced by physical conditions and forces. The student is thus taught to reason rather than to memorize and, since he acquires an intelligent knowledge of the production and modification of physical signs, is also

better enabled to appreciate their significance. It might indeed be objected that there is a little too much of this kind of theoretical discussion for a book of this size, were it not for the great educational value of such mental exercises to the student of science, and the tendency observed in many of the shorter text-books to sacrifice theoretical discussion and explanation to the demands of brevity. Such secondary factors as the tension of tissues and the physical properties of the bony structure of the thoracic cage apart from its contents, which have an important influence in modifying the physical signs, are particularly well brought out. If a criticism be allowable where there is so much to commend, it might be suggested that one important phase of the science of physical diagnosis, which cannot be too strongly impressed on the student, is perhaps not sufficiently emphasized in the present work. It is the relative value of the different methods of physical examination under varying circumstances and for the detection of certain definite conditions. The traditional order in which the various methods are usually given—inspection, palpation, percussion, auscultation—is, we think, in part, at least, responsible for this failure to appreciate their relative value, particularly in practical work. While no one will deny the importance of the first three methods, it is nevertheless true that auscultation yields the greatest amount of useful information and is, on the whole, the method most generally available and the one on which we most rely. This is especially true in children, at least as compared with percussion, and in the early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis, one of the most, if not the most, difficult problems in the whole range of physical diagnosis. The importance of a thorough proficiency in the use of the stethoscope for accuracy in diagnosis, especially in dealing with cardiac conditions, might also have been given greater prominence.

The second edition follows the same lines as the first and is brought up to date by the addition of an appendix on *x*-ray diagnosis, with many excellent illustrations of radiographs from cases of cardiac and pulmonary disease. No mention is made in this part of the book of the excellent work which has been done recently in short-time exposures of the chest with high-power tubes and which gives so much more satisfactory results than can be obtained with the fluoroscope.

R. M. G.

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CLEFT PALATE AND HARELIP. BY W. ARBUTHNOT LANE, M.S., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and Senior Surgeon to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. London: The Medical Publishing Co., Ltd., 1905.

THIS monograph consists of a resumé of the various papers which the author has contributed to the subject of cleft palate.