

It is impossible to imagine more subject matter than is here presented, contained in such a small volume without a loss of clearness of description. It should be recognized by an author of a text-book of insanity that a very extensive work with a full consideration of the many diverse views will neither be read nor understood by the student or practitioner. The reviewer of this book has kept the standpoint of the student in view. The expert in mental troubles will, however, find many things of value, and especially the clear and systematic presentation of a difficult subject.

In the translation, the German text is closely adhered to without, however, any sacrifice of the natural, clear, and direct style. The few illustrations could well be improved upon. Apart from this, the book is well printed in good type and well bound.

In conclusion, particular attention should be directed toward the classification of the different types of insanity and the table of contents. Were it possible to have institutions for the insane adopt this classification, much value from a statistical standpoint could be gained from their annual reports.

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A HANDBOOK OF SKIN DISEASES AND THEIR TREATMENT. By ARTHUR WHITFIELD, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., Professor of Dermatology in King's College; Physician to the Skin Department, King's College and the Great Northern Central Hospitals. Pp. 320. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. London: Edward Arnold, 1907.

As the title plainly indicates, this is a handbook and not a treatise. The general arrangement of the subject-matter, and indeed the handling of the matter itself, is different from that of the usual small text-book. The contents and the manner of dealing with the entire subject call to mind a similar-sized volume by Pye-Smith, of London, published some years ago, and which was deservedly well received by the profession. Dr. Whitfield has written for the purpose of giving the information he has to convey from his own point of view, and without regard to the traditional style of handbooks. Everything is brief, terse, and to the point. No classification is attempted: this is to be regretted.

Under the head of general therapeutics, it is stated, "apart from the remedies for various well-defined constitutional errors, only three drugs need be considered, namely, arsenic, mercury, and thyroid extract." From this it is obvious that the author is most conservative in the use of drugs. We quite agree with the remark that mercury is often of value in nutritive disorders of unknown nature, and that it is by no means safe to conclude that a skin disease is syphilitic

because it is found to yield to internal mercurial treatment. The chapter on pyogenic infections, together with a description of A. E. Wright's method of treatment, to which the author has experimentally given attention, is both original and interesting, brief as it is.

The "ringworms," so common in London, are elucidated according to recent studies, and Sabouraud's teachings largely followed. The Röntgen rays, it is stated, merely remove the hair, but do not cause the death of the fungus. Pityriasis alba, occurring in the scalp in scaly patches encircling the hair, the hair itself escaping invasion, is considered to be due to the "bottle bacillus." This affection the author states is fairly common in England, but in this country it is not generally recognized. Our best recent treatises do not describe it. There is a chapter on "tumors," but the lesion is not defined; some epidermic formations are included here. Ichthyosis, leukoderma, and scleroderma are grouped together in one chapter. The term "syphilide" is employed—rather the better English word syphiloderm, the latter being for every reason preferable.

Sound advice is given for hypertrichosis, which if followed would in the end save the patient both suffering and disfigurement. Depilatories are condemned, the safety-razor being preferable. The Röntgen rays should always be employed with caution.

While there is much in many directions that is original and interesting in the book, therapeutics cannot be designated its strongest feature. Not much is said in general on the internal administration of drugs, nor is the matter of diet strongly insisted upon in diseases in which a dietary really often plays a prominent part in the cure.

There are some good photographic illustrations and photomicrographs of sections, but no attempt is made to illustrate the diseases fully. The style of the author is easy and unaffected, so that one may peruse any page with pleasure as well as profit. L. A. D.

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NOTES ON BLOOD-SERUM THERAPY, PREVENTATIVE INOCULATION, AND TOXIN AND SERUM DIAGNOSIS FOR VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS. By WALTER JOWETT, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., Formerly Demonstrator of Comparative Pathology and Bacteriology in the University of Liverpool. Pp. 200. Chicago: W. T. Keener & Co., 1907.

Dr. JOWETT in this little book endeavors to give a short account of the subject of immunity and the vaccines, sera, and toxins used in present-day veterinary practice for the prevention, treatment, and diagnosis of disease. The first chapter deals with the principles of immunity in general. Naturally the matter is condensed into a small space, but even this mere outline of the subject is satisfactory