

of use of both volumes. We allow ourselves to express the hope that the work may be finished before long and within the proposed limits of four volumes, and that without lowering the standard of excellence reached in the volumes before us.

A Guide to the Clinical Examination of the Urine.

By FARRINGTON H. WHIPPLE, A.B. (Harv.). Boston: Damrell & Upham. 1891.

Guides of this character have multiplied of late with great rapidity. This new addition to the list does not, in our opinion, fill any important gap in this branch of medical literature. In certain respects, it compares favorably with other works of the same class, and would be deserving of some praise were it not for the numerous inaccurate and inexact statements which it contains. It is stated for example, that when tyrosine is ingested by the healthy individual, his urea is increased by just so much nitrogen as was contained in the amount of tyrosine taken into the system; that the skilled observer is enabled, by the microscopic examination of blood, to determine from what animal the blood in question was derived; that the only means of distinguishing ordinary lactic acid and sarcocollactic acid lies in the fact that the latter forms salts with zinc and calcium; that calcic oxalate occurs only in acid urine, etc. Other examples might be given. Mr. Whipple has, we believe, made the mistake of rushing into print before acquiring that exact knowledge and experience which one should possess before attempting a work of this kind.

We presume that books of this character will be written as long as there is a demand for them; and this is likely to exist as long as there are students who desire to pass their examinations without possessing any real knowledge of the subject. We believe that examiners can most effectually check this demand by refusing to pass students whose books present evidences of this method of preparation.

W. B. H.

Syllabus of the Obstetrical Lectures in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania.

By RICHARD C. NORRIS, A.M., M.D. Second Edition. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1891.

"The design of the book is to secure for the student a logical and consecutive outline of his work, and to aid him in classifying the knowledge he acquires in the lecture-room."

The syllabus first appeared in 1890; and the call for a second edition, eighteen months later, is a sufficient evidence of its usefulness. Some new material has been added, particularly in the chapters on Infant Feeding, Pathology of the Puerperium, Obstetric Operation, and Dystocia. An index has also been prepared, and blank pages has been interleaved for additional notes. The book will doubtless find a continued usefulness in the student's hands.

Essentials of Pathology and Morbid Anatomy. By C. E. ARMAND SEMPLE, M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1889.

This is one of a series of question compends which are "specially intended to assist students to put together the knowledge they have already acquired by attending lectures." If this is the case, the students who have to listen to lectures of which this book gives the essentials, have our pity. For it is simply a rehash of Green and other old English works on pathology, by a man who is a book-maker and not a pathologist.

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RECENT EXPERIMENTS WITH THE PNEUMOCOCCUS OF PNEUMONIA AND ITS TOXINE AND ANTITOXINE. THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFERRING IMMUNITY IN ANIMALS AND EVEN IN MAN.

G. AND F. KLEMPERER¹ have published a memoir in which are detailed some important recent experiments the practical outcome of which may possibly be of some real therapeutic importance.

The directing idea which guided these German investigators in their experiments was the following: It is known that in most cases pneumonia after having, during from five to seven days, caused grave general symptoms, terminates abruptly by crisis. In the space of a few hours, the temperature falls to its normal level and even below it, the pulse becomes slower and firmer, and the patient experiences a striking amendment. Now at this moment there has been little or no change in the state of the lungs which still remain infiltrated with fibrinous exudation, nor in the properties of the pneumococci which are found in great numbers in the sputa and retain all their virulence, as can easily be proved by inoculations of animals.

The pneumonic crisis, then, does not depend on any change in the state of the lungs or in the microbes which have caused the infection. To what, then, are we to attribute it? Only one explanation is possible; the crisis is due to the products of secretion of the pneumococcus, which, by their accumulation, modify at a given moment the soil on which the microbes develop.

In their experiments made on hares, the Klemperers early observed that any nutritive substance which had served as a culture medium for the pneumococci, even if it had been separated from the microbes by filtration, might confer on the animal immunity against the pneumonic infection. The power of this vaccine may be augmented, both in rapidity and intensity of action, by subjecting the liquid for two or three days to a

¹ Berlin Klin. Wochens., August 21, 31, 1891.