

*Syphilis; Its Diagnosis and Treatment.* By F. J. LAMBKIN, Col. R.A.M.C., Lecturer of Syphilology, Royal Army Medical College, London; late specialist at the Army Headquarters, India, etc., with preface by SIR FREDERICK TREVES, Bart., G.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D. New York: William Wood & Co. 1911.

In this book, Lambkin, whose experience in the study and treatment of syphilis has been unusually wide, offers a clear elementary statement of our present knowledge of the disease and its methods of treatment, including the most recent use of Ehrlich's "606." In spite of the fact that many somewhat similar books have been written on the subject, the clear method of presentation, with excessive use of headings and tables of differential diagnoses, renders it an extremely serviceable treatise, particularly for students and for those whose special work is not particularly concerned with the disease. No references are given, which, while it detracts somewhat from the wide scientific value of the text, renders it much more easily readable and more widely available, therefore, for those who wish in brief form a comprehensive view of the entire subject now exciting particular interest on account of increasingly efficacious methods of treatment. The book should certainly meet with a cordial reception from a wide circle of readers within the profession.

*The Mechanism of Life.* By DR. STÉPHANE LEDUC. Translated by W. DEANE BUTCHER. New York: Rebman Company. 1911.

This English translation of a French work presents an exceedingly interesting record of the author's investigations into the relation of certain chemical, electric and mechanical phenomena of the life process. Solution, diffusion, osmosis, cohesion and crystallization are all studied from a biologic standpoint. Those peculiar structures known as osmotic growths are described and illustrated; and the attempt is made, with Gallic logic, to correlate all these physical phenomena into a theory of the evolution of life from inanimate matter. Without admitting the author's arguments as evidence for the validity of spontaneous generation, it must be admitted that he has demonstrated many striking and incontrovertible facts. His researches at least suggest the possibility of a scientific explanation of the analogies between the forms of organic life and the geometric phenomena of the inorganic world from which it is derived.

"Salvarsan," or "606"; *Its Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Therapeutics.* By W. HARRISON MARTINDALE, Ph.D. Marburg, F.C.S., and W. WYNN WESTCOTT, M.B. Lond., D.P.H., H.M.'s Coroner for North-East London. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1911.

In this volume of 77 pages, an epitome of the chemistry, therapeutic results, dosage, methods of administration and results of salvarsan are given in succinct and readable form. A series of references with remarks is a valuable addition to the text. The book in general should be of value

to those who are using this method of treatment, as well as to those who are interested in the subject from a more theoretical standpoint.

*The Triumph of American Medicine in the Construction of the Panama Canal.* By J. EWING MEARS, M.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: William J. Dornan. 1911.

\* This monograph describes eulogistically the great work done by Dr. W. C. Gorgas, U. S. A., chief sanitary officer of the Isthmian Canal Commission, in reclaiming the Canal Zone between Colon and Panama from the pestilence-breeding conditions which, previous to American occupation, had rendered it practically unfit for civilized human habitation. This work consisted essentially in eradicating from this district the anopheles and stegomyia mosquitoes, the transmitters of yellow fever and malaria. The author describes the history of the country and the methods by which this was accomplished by Dr. Gorgas. The work has been great, not only for its actual benefit, but as a demonstration of the possibilities of enlightened hygiene in the tropics. Its achievement adds another laurel to the enduring credit of the surgeons of the United States Army.

*Anesthesia and Analgesia.* By J. D. MORTIMER, M.B. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). London: University of London Press. 1911.

Since the appearance of Gardner's "Surgical Anæsthesia," which was reviewed in the issue of the JOURNAL for April 28, 1910 (vol. clxii, p. 576), there has been published no such excellent English treatise on the subject as this new volume by Mortimer in the series of London Practitioner's Manuals. Mortimer's book is more elaborate than Gardner's, for it includes a consideration of spinal and local analgesia, and of the medico-legal position of the anesthetist, as well as of general anesthesia by inhalation. It does not, however, treat the history of anesthesia or describe the physical and chemical properties of narcotic agents and drugs, but aims to deal solely with the practical matters of their administration. Like Gardner, Mortimer is to be criticised, from our American point of view and practice, for advocating the repeated use of the corneal reflex. His teaching, however, is in the main sound, and his work a useful complementary manual to Gardner's and a valuable contribution to the knowledge of practical anesthesia.

*Manual of Diseases of the Eye.* By CHARLES MAY, M.D. Seventh edition. Pp. 407. New York: William Wood & Co. 1911.

This compact manual has reached its seventh edition and has been translated into seven languages, including Japanese, and this we believe is due to its merits. The book is intended for the student and the general practitioner and covers the ground thoroughly, at the same time being concise. It is profusely illustrated with cuts in black and white and many colored plates which are of high excellence. It is altogether the best of the shorter works on diseases of the eye, and the present edition brings it abreast of the times.