

THE OXFORD MEDICINE ADVANCE PAGES. Edited by HENRY A. CHRISTIAN and SIR JAMES MACKENZIE. Volume I, Part V. Pp. 635; 23 illustrations. New York: Oxford University Press, American Branch, 1920.

PART V, Volume I, of this *Oxford Medicine* series may be said to deal almost entirely with methods of diagnosis and their application to clinical medicine. The first 66 pages are prepared by Dr. Barker, who has written a delightful essay on a subject which is of interest to every clinician. He describes for us the ideal methods of arriving at a diagnosis in the presence of some hypothetical condition. Dr. Baker is extremely thorough in his study of the patient, and shows us that to appreciate completely the normal and the abnormal of an individual is beyond the scope of any one man, and therefore it is necessary to depend upon others for the more special examinations. This brings up the question of the so-called group medicine, which Dr. Barker, needless to say, advocates most heartily. He particularly stresses that opportunity should be given the great middle class to benefit by such an organization of medical men. At the present time the cost of these examinations is prohibitive to people in the average walk of life, therefore combination should be formed which, by proper business methods, could carry on this work for nominal charges.

Dr. Henry A. Christian has written the succeeding ten pages; a general summary of the functional tests, which have proved of some value in medicine. This chapter is a short one, and as Dr. Christian says, it is chiefly to indicate the underlying principles and the scope of these tests.

Respiration in disease, the next chapter, is presented by Dr. Francis Peabody. This article will probably repay the reader by careful study, as it is upon a subject which we are not accustomed to consider carefully in disease, and yet withal it is a subject which is not only intensely interesting but also of great value in considering not only diseases of the lungs and disturbances of pulmonary function, but also in many other conditions.

The last chapter is by Dr. Du Bois. It is upon the subject of the study of diseases with calorimetric methods. As with the other authors in this present portion of Volume I, Dr. Du Bois

is a recognized authority in his subject. In fact, it is doubtful if there is anyone who could have prepared a more authoritative article than Dr. Du Bois, who has done a tremendous amount of research and investigative work in this interesting study of the heat production and loss by the body. The article describes the methods of calorimetry and their application to the study of disease in such a clear and lucid style that there can be no doubt but that all who read will understand this rather complex subject.

J. H. M., Jr.