

A SYSTEM OF MEDICINE BY MANY WRITERS. Edited by THOMAS CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.S.A. Vol. III., pp. 1176. New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1897.

THIS volume, which treats of infective diseases and toxicology, is the work of thirty-one different writers, who have produced a most valuable addition to medical literature, reflecting great credit on themselves and on the editor. The main divisions are (1) infective diseases of chronic

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

course; (2) diseases of uncertain bacteriology; (3) infective diseases communicable from animals to man; (4) diseases due to protozoa; (5) intoxications, and (6) internal parasites.

While in general it may be stated that every department is most fully and interestingly considered, certain chapters deserve especial mention.

The chapter on Tuberculosis, by Dr. Sidney Martin, treats fully of the bacteriology of the disease, the lesions produced by the bacillus and the retrogressive changes, gives most interesting details of inoculation and feeding experiments, discusses modes of infection in animals and in man, sources of infection, preventive measures, immunity, etiology, diagnosis, and other considerations.

Dr. P. S. Abraham gives a history of Leprosy, the geographical distribution of the disease, its symptomatology, pathology and bacteriology, its contagiousness, the various considerations bearing upon the question of heredity, and the influence of diet, poverty, race, climate, and segregation. Treatment is considered under three heads: hygienic, medicinal, and surgical. The whole chapter is one which cannot fail to interest the physician and the layman as well.

The chapter on Actinomycosis, by Dr. T. D. Acland, gives evidence of the author's wide reading and complete knowledge of the literature of the subject. Measles and other maladies coming within the category of "children's diseases" are well covered by the several writers, and the same may be said of smallpox and constitutional syphilis.

It would, perhaps, appear somewhat sweeping to assert that the chapters on topical diseases of uncertain bacteriology, such as typhus, dengue, yellow fever, beri-beri, epidemic dropsy, Delhi boil, etc., are individually better than can be found elsewhere in any work of a similar nature; but it may be said, without fear of successful contradiction, that collectively they may, perhaps, be equalled but not surpassed.

Vaccinia is very thoroughly presented in a chapter of 132 pages, by Drs. T. D. Acland and S. M. Copeman and Mr. Ernest Hart. Dr. Acland's connection with the Royal Commission on Vaccination for a period of seven years has given him exceptional opportunity for the clinical study of vaccinia, and Mr. Ernest Hart's lifelong connection with public health matters has abundantly qualified him for a discussion of vaccination as a branch of preventive medicine.

Simply to state that the somewhat brief chapter on Malarial Fever is the work of Dr. William Osler is a sufficient guarantee of the excellent manner in which that subject is handled. Dr. H. A. Lafleur writes on Amœbic Dysentery, which has been a subject of some original research by himself in connection with others.

The chapters on Intoxications, covering poisoning by ptomaines, grain, mushrooms, snake-bite, etc., and alcoholism, commend themselves particularly to the sanitarian and therapist.

Dr. Allbutt's chapter on Opium Poisoning and other intoxications is exceptionally interesting and valuable, and his remarks on the treatment of poisoning by opium may well be taken by writers on therapeutics and toxicology as a basis for revision of much that is written on that subject. Occasional flashes of a certain grim humor add more or less to the pleasure of perusal.

Dr. Thomas Oliver's work on metallic and some other forms of poisoning is a valuable contribution to industrial hygiene, though his chemistry is sometimes not beyond criticism.

A hundred pages on Internal Parasites, by Drs. Griffiths, Manson, Guillemard, Verco and Stirling, complete the volume in a most highly satisfactory manner, presenting the subject very fully and with many instructive illustrations.

C. H.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.