collection seems certain to serve its function of refreshing the memory of the older generation of medical students. For the new generation, a volume of individual aphorisms cannot, of course, be more than a brief introduction, but a more stimulating and entertaining introduction than this volume would be difficult to find.

R. G.

Practical Gynecology. By W. J. Reich and M. J. Nechtow. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950. 426 pp. $10.00.

Two Cook County Hospital staff members have prepared a text for the non-specialist on the subject of "everyday" gynecology. Their efforts have given us an extremely readable and worthwhile volume. The entire book could be read in a few evenings' concentration. It is chatty in style but serious in content. The book is liberally illustrated and contains a unit of fifteen plates of exceptionally fine colored photographs of various pathological conditions. The authors explain clearly the simple methods and practical procedures used in obtaining diagnoses by the physician in office practice. Students are sure to appreciate this volume, for it gives a complete coverage of the field but does not bog down in the rare, the esoteric, or the finely detailed discussions of more standard texts.

W. F. S.

Mr. Carlyle My Patient. By James L. Halliday. New York, Grune & Stratton, 1950. 227 pp. $3.50.

Thomas Carlyle, Victorian man of letters, lived for eighty-six years. For sixty-three of those years he suffered from pains in the upper abdomen which he called "dyspepsia" and from chronic constipation, depression and irritability which he termed "biliousness." Author Halliday, from a scholarly study of Carlyle's works, letters, pamphlets, and journals, has pieced together a searching psychobiography of the gaunt, brusque Scotsman. Readers will be interested especially in the treatment of the legend of Carlyle's alleged impotence. The fact that the author's subject was a voluble and prolific writer with a psychological "orientation" has given this study advantages over other latter-day analyses of historical figures. The work is presented as a case study with the appropriate Carlylean quotations, arranged in chronological reference, interpreted and explained in language more or less intelligible to the psychiatrically uninitiated. Continuity is provided by conventional biographical methods. This volume should provide exciting tea time talk for Carlyle's twentieth century disciples and admirers but a somewhat less surprised reception from psychiatrists who are sure to have heard this story, with modifications, repeated often by other voices in other rooms.

W. F. S.

A History of Biology. By Charles Singer. New York, Henry Schuman, Inc., 1950. xxv + 579 pp. $5.

Charles Singer has made a distinguished contribution to the Life of Science Library series. In this book, which was previously printed in America under the title The Story of Living Things, he presents in chronological order the inception and progress of the fundamental ideas upon which the science of Biology stands.
By sacrificing minute detail in order to preserve continuity, he writes a concise and lucid account of the important observations, concepts, and men of biology. Singer gives the reader a rounded, understandable background for each idea as it takes its place in the story. The book will gratify those readers who want a full view of the important steps in the science without the confusion of small detail and blind alleys.

J.F.S.