The author claims for physiology the position of an experimental and superstructural science, occupying a field quite as definite as anatomy, chemistry, and physics, the three foundations on which it is built, and, as a special feature of this book, the advantage of presenting the subject concretely within its own proper boundaries, and in its instructive connections with the sciences whence it is derived. To this end he has summarised in the introduction those principles of physics and chemistry which have a general application, and has prefixed to each chapter an abstract of the facts drawn from all three of the basic sciences which are to be applied in the succeeding text. In the introduction, there is also given an account of the development of physiology as a science, and of the special contributions made by philosophers of times past. In plan, the book is divided into two parts—General Physiology (dealing with the physiology of the cell and of contractile and irritable tissues), and Special Physiology (which includes nutrition, or the physiology of internal relations, moto-sensory activities or the physiology of external relations, and reproduction).

In the chapter on cytology, the main features of protoplasm and the phenomena of life are described; and among the many excellent plates may be specially mentioned those from Wilson’s work on the cell in development and inheritance. The latest results of experimental research are well summarised in the chapter on the contractile and irritable tissues, and more especially as to the results of stimulation of muscle and nerve, and the general doctrine of the neuron and nerve function.

Of the part devoted to Special Physiology, it may be generally said that it bears evidence of original research, and thorough acquaintance with the work of others. Sound judgment is shown in the selection and arrangement of material, and while much must necessarily be passed over in a volume of 650 pages, yet a fair and accurate statement of the main principles of the science is presented in a clear and concise form. References are given to the most recent
physiological literature alike in journals, archives, and textbooks, such as Schäfer's. Among many interesting and novel features may be noted the detail in which the structural formulae and reactions of the various products of metabolism are worked out; the new discoveries with regard to absorption and internal secretion, and the functions of the cerebellum as to co-ordination and equilibration. Besides the general index there is a useful index of comparative physiology. The illustrations are numerous and excellent, as also the paper and typography.

It can be confidently recommended as a reliable and convenient manual for students, practitioners, and the general public.

Paralytic Deformities of the Lower Extremities: the Principles of their Surgical Treatment. By E. Noble Smith, F.R.C.S. Edin., L.R.C.P. Lond. With 51 Illustrations. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1900.

This little work strikes the reader as being even more a record of what the writer has done in orthopaedic surgery than a complete treatise on that subject. The work of others in this field is, however, recognised, and the volume is sufficiently full and systematic to be regarded as a small manual, so far as the lower limbs are concerned. The diseases and injuries which cause the deformities are not considered in detail; the aim is rather to take up in succession the principal types of deformity, and show what can be done in the way of adding to the powers and happiness of the sufferer. After dealing with the various operative procedures employed in orthopaedic surgery, Mr. Smith discusses the deformities resulting from diseases of the spinal column and cord, brain, nerves, and muscles. An interesting paper, which was published in 1898, is reproduced in this volume—"A New Method of Restoring the Absent Function of Muscles in Infantile Paralysis." It had been previously known that division of the tendons of muscles which have undergone contracture after infantile paralysis, is frequently followed by improvement in the nutrition of the damaged and neighbouring parts of the limb. It accordingly occurred to Mr. Smith that tenotomy of the palsied muscle might result in still more direct benefit to that muscle itself. Cases are given to illustrate the striking results obtained from this operation. A later part of the volume is devoted to the scientific use
of mechanical apparatus. An appendix gives us cases in which benefit resulted from laminectomy for paralysis.

Altogether, the book is an interesting and creditable piece of work, and ought to be of value to both physician and surgeon.

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A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin, for the Use of Students and Practitioners. By James Nevins Hyde, A.M., M.D., and Frank Hugh Montgomery, M.D. Fifth and Revised Edition. Illustrated with 111 Engravings and 24 Plates in Colors and Monochrome. London: Henry Kimpton. 1900.

To its enterprising publisher, this must be one of the most satisfactory works he has issued. Appearing first in 1883, and reaching a second edition five years afterwards, it appeared in its present guise (fifth edition) at the close of 1899, a volume which everyone concerned in its production may well contemplate with a sense of gratification.

A brief notice will suffice for a work which has already gained for itself so secure a position. The earlier pages are taken up with the anatomy and physiology of the skin, and with the symptomatology, etiology, pathology, diagnosis, prognosis, and therapeutics of cutaneous disease, all from a general point of view. The classification of skin diseases comes next. This is practically the one which was adopted in 1878 and revised in 1884 by the American Dermatological Association. It is a modification of Hebra's scheme. Cutaneous diseases are discussed, naturally, in the order of classification. Thus, we have, first, diseases of glands, then inflammations, hæmorrhages, hypertrophies, atrophies, new-growths, sensory dermato-neuroses, and, finally, parasitic affections.

No perfect classification is available to us, and no more can the text be regarded as satisfactory to everyone. For instance, in a work of this size, there ought to be an account of the rashes that may follow the use of enemata, a subject treated of in a paper published in this Journal last year, and noticed in the literature both at home and abroad.

For the benefit of those who possess one of the earlier editions, we may allude to some of the more important changes to be found in the present issue. New chapters have been written on Porokeratosis and Blastomycetic Dermatitis. The subjects more or less completely revised include General Etiology, General Therapeutics, Eczema, Purpura,
The Alopecias, The Atrophies, Lupus Erythematosus, Mycosis Fungoides, The Neuroses, Xanthoma, Pellagra, Impetigo, Dermatitis Herpetiformis, Pigment Anomalies, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, and Mycetoma. Twelve full-page plates and two engravings are new.

This admirable work is a valuable addition to any medical practitioner's literary capital.

Year-Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland: comprising Lists of the Papers read during 1899 before Societies engaged in Fourteen Departments of Research, with the Names of their Authors. Compiled from Official Sources. Seventeenth Annual Issue. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Limited. 1900.

The present volume obviously fulfils more than one purpose, for while, on the one hand, it is of value as a book of reference, it is, on the other hand, a record of the actual work done in the past year by the societies; and not only so, but if it be compared with earlier issues of the same work, it indicates, to some extent, the progress that science is making from year to year. As is remarked in the preface, the work is a suggestive one to those who are interested in literature, since it gives a résumé of the "subjects which have occupied the most active intellects amongst us during the past twelve months." We recommend the volume to the notice of scientific workers.

Archives of Neurology and Psychopathology. Vol. II—Nos. 3 and 4 (1899). Utica (New York): State Hospitals Press. 1900.

The State Hospitals Press is doing an excellent and praiseworthy piece of work in publishing these Archives. Most of the present volume is taken up by three papers by L. Pierce Clark, who is a member of the medical staff of the Craig Colony for Epileptics at Sonyea, New York. These papers, which are collectively entitled "Clinical Studies in Epilepsy," are on exhaustion-paralysis in epilepsy, on paroxysmal multiplex associated with epilepsy, and on hypertrophic infantile cerebral palsy and phocomelus associated with epilepsy. The studies are very elaborate, and abundantly illustrated.
Other contributions are—by P. A. Levene and I. Levin, on the absorption of proteids; by P. A. Levene, on some chemical changes in the developing egg, and on the chemical relation of colloid, mucoid and amyloid substances; by Richard Weil and Robert Frank, on the evidence of the Golgi methods for the theory of neuron retraction; and by Ward A. Holden, on the sequence of changes in the optic chiasm produced by acromegalia, as exemplified in three cases.

By an excellent arrangement, the volume includes a table of contents of previous numbers.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

SURGERY.

By G. H. EDINGTON, M.D.

On the Use of Inflammatory Excitants in Wound-treatment.—G. Meyer premises the now generally recognised fact that in wounds only relative freedom from germs can be obtained. "Absolute" asepsis does not exist.

He points out that the natural healing of surface wounds is accompanied by a very moderate degree of inflammation.

He therefore proposes to excite a mild inflammatory action in the wound, with the object of attracting phagocytes. This renders the tissues bactericidal, and also hastens the infiltration of the blood-clot with leucocytes, thus preventing it, in its deeper parts, serving as a nutrient medium for the bacteria.

His method of treatment combines strict asepsis and the use of a mild inflammatory excitant. For sutured or markedly germ-free wounds he recommends tincture of iodine. For impure wounds he uses acetate of aluminium, which also he specially recommends in the form of warm, moist applications in deep suppurating wounds occurring in senile or broken-down individuals.—(Centralblatt für Chirurgie, 11th August, 1900.)

Osteoplastic Amputation.—The principle consists in the formation of an osteo-periosteal segment adherent to the soft tissues of the flap. One adapts this segment closely to the sawn surface of the bone, with which it unites. The resulting stump is as solid as the diaphysis itself.

The author claims for this method arrest of the longitudinal growth of the bone, thus avoiding conical stump.

He cuts two musculo-cutaneous flaps of unequal length. The long flap contains the bony segment or segments, and in the arm and thigh is cut from the outer surface, while in the fore-arm it is fashioned from the posterior.

The method consists in sawing through the bone transversely at the base of the long, and at the level of the margin of the short, flap. The periosteum is partly detached, and the bone is sawn longitudinally to a depth equal to the circumference of the shaft. A second transverse section of the shaft is made