

always stated. This is a good plan, as no doubt it helps to associate the disease in the mind of the student with its often rather cumbersome name. The corresponding names in French, German, and Italian are also noted. The necessity for this is perhaps not so apparent. Anyone who has sufficient knowledge of these languages, to benefit from reading medical works in them, would have little difficulty in recognising the names by which the diseases are known.

With regard to the text, it may be said that on the whole it is worthy of the pictures. There is nothing particularly novel in the descriptions given. Nor could there well be. It is sufficient that they should be true to nature, and that they serve admirably to draw attention to the points which call for observation. The book is altogether so good that it seems almost a pity that it did not lie in the plan of publication to add some slight indication of treatment, where any treatment is called for. It is usually a somewhat thankless task to devote so much time and labour on the production of an atlas as must have been required in the case of Dr. Ramsay's work. Where everything, however, is so satisfactory, and here it may be said that the publishers have succeeded admirably in all respects, there should be little fear that the author's efforts will be appreciated by the medical public, and that the atlas will prove of great value to the busy general practitioner. G. A. BERRY.

*General Physiology: An Outline of the Science of Life.* By MAX VERWORN, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Physiology, Jena. Translated by FREDERIC S. LEE, Ph.D., Columbia University. London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd. 1899.

PROFESSOR VERWORN'S "Allgemeine Physiologie" is already well known to English physiologists as one of the most suggestive books ever written on that fascinating subject—Cell Physiology.

This is a translation from the second German edition, and one cannot but admire the accuracy and well-balanced judgment in selection of terms that characterise Professor Lee's work. Verworn's German is not the most easy to clothe in English dress, and yet it is only very occasionally that even a critical reader would wish a word or phrase altered. One dare hardly speak of the scope of such a work. It has practically no boundaries. Anatomy and physiology (human and comparative), physics, chemistry and philosophy, are all appealed to, in order that the treatment may not lack in breadth. The wealth of detail, especially in respect to elementary vital phenomena in the lower forms of animal life, is perhaps the most outstanding feature in the work. It is not a book that can be used as a guide to any student going up for examinations, the bewildering range of subjects prevents that; but it is one that should be carefully studied by anyone interested in the general problems of life, which, after all, can simply be discovered and understood after we have arrived at a fuller knowledge of the cell life.

The book is divided up into six chapters, the first one giving a general account of the aims and methods of physiological research. This is almost entirely historical, dealing with the development of

modern physiology, from the period of Hippocrates to the present day. Living, as distinguished from lifeless, substance is treated of in the second chapter, both the morphological and the chemical composition of the cell being taken up. In such a chapter as this one, where individual selection must be exercised with care, many readers will wish that some part or other had been more fully treated at the expense of another portion. But the average reader could wish for nothing better. A clear exposition of the most modern views is given, and subjects are made to appear interesting which are apt to be regarded as the dry bones of cell physiology. One of the most interesting and original chapters in the book is that on elementary vital phenomena. He must be dull indeed whose interest flags while reading about the different ways in which energy may be introduced into the organism, and the different transformations of energy in the cell life. In such a work as this it is impossible to avoid some repetition, and that one meets with here and there in this chapter. It is a pity, however, that there is such a useless repetition of figures. For example, such figures as 118, 187, 261, and some others, are given elsewhere when their reappearance is quite unnecessary. Chapter v., on "Stimuli and their Actions," is perhaps the best in the book. Professor Verworn is a great authority on the phenomena of excitation and depression of the cell, and he has given a most fascinating description of the whole subject. The last chapter on "The Mechanism of Life" is almost as good as its forerunner, although here there is a more marked tendency to repeat what has been given previously. Perhaps, after all, this repetition only strikes one more after reading the other chapters; and it is a compliment to any author, when the reader has been so impressed by what has been given in the earlier part of the book, that a recurrence to anything that has been discussed before finds the subject still fresh in his memory.

Such a book as this, however, is worthy only of the warmest praise, and certainly carping criticism would be quite out of place. It is a book that compels the reader to think for himself. It would be impossible to find a better guide to lead one through the intricacies of the problems of the cell life.

T. H. MILROY.

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*Masters of Medicine*—*John Hunter*, by STEPHEN PAGET; *William Harvey*, by D'ARCY POWER; *William Stokes*, by SIR WILLIAM STOKES; and *Sir Benjamin Brodie, Bart.*, by TIMOTHY HOLMES. London: T. FISHER UNWIN. 1897 and 1898.

In some of the Continental schools there still exist chairs set apart for the teaching of medical history. It is to be regretted that the British medical curriculum is so full and varied, and the student's time so occupied, that there is no opportunity for his attending a course of lectures on a subject which could not fail to be as stimulating as it would undoubtedly be interesting and instructive. It is, however, gratifying to find such a series of works as those under consideration making their appearance.

The history of medicine is naturally intimately bound up with the lives of those men who have devoted themselves to the furtherance of