

## Book Notices

**A MANUAL OF PHARMACY FOR PHYSICIANS.** By M. F. DeLorme, M.D., Lecturer on Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Long Island College Hospital, New York. Second Edition. Cloth. Price, \$1.25 net. Pp. 199, with 19 illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1910.

The author in this book has made the laudable effort "to provide a small concise text-book, presenting only those facts of the subject having interest for the medical practitioner." He has paid special attention to prescription Latin. One of the reasons assigned by most authors for the use of Latin in prescriptions is that "Latin is a dead language and not subject to change." Our author, however, evidently believes that it can be improved by changing its time-honored rules. With the intention of making it so simple that any student by learning a few improved rules can write correct Latin, he tells his readers that all Latin nouns ending in "a" form their genitive in "æ," that adjectives end in "us" and form a genitive in "i" and that, as the genitive is the only case in which the physician is interested, in the text of Part II all nouns will be put in the genitive case. It is interesting to see how these simple rules work. The author is iconoclastic enough to apply them to the utter demolition of the ancient grammar. For instance, we learn that the genitive of "Cataplasma" is "cataplasmae" (old form "cataplasmatiss"), that the prescription term for "distilled water" is "aqua destillati," that for "monobromated camphor" we should write "camphora monobromati." Other examples are "creta camphorati," "tinctura valerianae ammoniati," etc. While the author admits that, theoretically, other cases may be used in writing a prescription, "as in prescribing an official pill, when the accusative case is employed," he considers that the "almost universal practice of abbreviating the noun 'pilulae' (pil.) makes this exception of small practical moment and justifies its dismissal." Accordingly, the accusative disappears and we read "Divide in pilulae no. x," "Div. in capsulae no. iv." The ablative is no longer of use. So the author allows "cum" to govern the genitive: "Pulveris Potassii Bromidi Effervescens cum Caffeinae N. F." In this case, zeal in carrying out his scheme caused the author to forget the genitive of "effervescens," which is not provided for by the simplified rules. But, strange to say, he writes "R̄ Carbo animalis," although he has informed his readers a few pages before that "carbo" has a special genitive "carbonis."

The effort to put all nouns in the genitive imposes too great a burden on one devoted to simplification, and hence the student finds a jumble of nominatives and genitives, plurals and singulars, with an occasional instance in which, following the custom of older writers, the author has allowed the accusative or ablative to appear in strict accordance with grammatical rules. The lesson from this seems to be that we should either learn to write Latin correctly or dodge the difficulty by cutting off the endings in all cases. When an author and teacher cannot produce a set of fifteen typical prescriptions without 40 per cent. of them containing more or less serious errors, what can be expected of a student ignorant of Latin who tries to follow his directions?

The influence of such a book is vicious.

**BIER'S TEXT-BOOK OF HYPEREMIA AS APPLIED IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY.** By Prof. Dr. August Bier, of Berlin. Only authorized translation from the sixth German revised edition by Dr. Gustavus M. Blech, Professor of Clinical Surgery, Illinois Medical College. Cloth. Price, \$4. Pp. 439, with 39 illustrations. New York: Rebman Company, 1910.

This is a fascinating work of some 400 pages. Once having begun, one is tempted to read every word and then reread many sections, so earnestly and convincingly has the writer presented his topic to his readers. The text does not lend itself well to abstracting; it must be taken as a whole to be properly appreciated.

While the list of conditions treated and the benefits obtained at first appear rather appalling and arouse the most natural medical emotion of prejudice against something different, yet a careful survey of the author's discussion and skillful employment constantly tends to allay the natural bias and to bring out the reasonableness of the procedure in the conditions to

which it is adapted. The chapters on theory are interesting and instructive, reminding one, in their character and clearness, of Adami's charming little volume on "Inflammation." Bier's experience, like that of many others, emphasizes the fact that the more fundamental a truth and the broader its application, the greater is the difficulty in getting its general acceptance.

It is difficult, however, for us to accept many of the practical applications in conditions that we are wont to treat otherwise and we still remain in the critical attitude of wanting "to be shown." For instance, in the treatment of tuberculous joints Bier says, "I now declare it to be the best conservative agent at our command, which, with the least risk, simply and cheaply achieves results, especially as far as the function of the diseased joints is concerned, to which none of the other methods of treatment can even approximately approach. It must be added that at the same time it is the most agreeable of them all because it removes the pain from the patient without causing him new ones, in addition to leaving him the most perfect use of his limb." In concluding his work, he says, "I believe that the practical application represents the most general method of cure which exists, for I know of no other remedy which can be successfully employed in so great a variety of diseases."

The book is of convenient size, printed with clear type on good paper, and the translation well worthy of the text.

**CLINICAL COMMENTARIES DEDUCED FROM THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY.** By Prof. Achille De-Giovanni, Director of the General Medical Clinic, University of Padua. Translated from the second Italian Edition by John Joseph Eyre, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., Cambridge. Cloth. Price, \$4.50. Pp. 436, with illustrations. New York: Rebman Company, 1910.

The title does not convey a clear idea of the subject-matter of this work, for it deals not with the form and structure of the human body as such, but rather with the relations which exist between the special morphology of the individual and his particular morbidities. The author assumes that modern morphology dictates the maxim that "function creates the organ" and as a natural consequence of this that "function reveals the anatomic conditions of the organ." He then formulates two principles expressed as follows:

1. "The cause of the special morbidity of organisms resides in their special morphology."
2. "The same principle which explains the formation of the organs, of the organisms and their function, explains the anomalies of form and of function that the organisms present during the periods of life."

The first part of the book is devoted to an attempt to justify the above principles. The second is more concrete and practical; in it the author elaborates his system of measurements of the body, based on which he subdivides individuals into three principal groups or classes, which he calls morphologic combinations. Each morphologic combination is supposed to exhibit certain morbidities, but there are almost innumerable varieties of each of the three principal combinations.

The author is given too much to theorizing, and, as is usual in such cases, his ideas are frequently clothed in such a superfluity of words as at times to defy analysis and thus to be meaningless. Possibly the translator may be responsible occasionally for a small part of this obscurity by a too literal translation. Yet, notwithstanding these numerous defects, a careful perusal of the book cannot fail to convince the reader that the author is possessed of an idea which contains more than a germ of truth and which is capable of much development by further observation and study.

**CLINICAL PATHOLOGY IN PRACTICE. With a Short Account of Vaccine-Therapy.** By Thomas J. Horder, M.D., Medical Registrar and Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Cloth. Price, \$3. Pp. 216, with 6 illustrations. New York: Oxford University Press, 1910.

This work takes up the various diagnostic measures of clinical pathology. An account is given of the proper technic for securing materials; but the laboratory procedures used in the examination are intentionally omitted. The author discusses the conditions in which such measures are advisable, and the interpretation of the results obtained with them;