

abandoned; yet the author, while fairly stating other views, decidedly leans toward his own—a position which would be perfectly proper in a memoir, but which is out of place in a student's text-book. It is the occasional outcrop of personal bias in the retention or defence of opinions with which the author's name has been associated, either as an originator or a supporter, which constitutes the most serious, in fact, the only serious, defect in this work. Other defects are of minor importance, or unavoidably spring from the immensely wide field covered. The writer of a text-book should ruthlessly sacrifice his most cherished theories if they do not accord with the latest research.

The next section is devoted to the three germ layers of the developing ovum, leading us to the embryo in the third section and the foetal membranes in the fourth. Through all these pages the author sustains his plan of maintaining a critical attitude, and, as far as possible, verifying his statements by his own observation. Each mammalian structure is introduced by a brief and clear statement of its mode of appearance in the fishes, amphibians and reptiles, rendering these chapters as valuable to the general as to the special student. Duval, in his recent monograph on the placenta of the Rodentia, speaks in high terms of Professor Minot's work upon the placenta, but differs with him in regard to the so-called ecto-placenta, holding that he has mistaken the ecto-placental columns and tubes for the uterine glands.

The latter half of the work is given to the general development of the foetus and the organology or special development of each of the systems and organs of the body. Here, again, the accuracy and breadth of treatment. The pages simply bristle with information upon every subject treated, giving a thoroughly encyclopædic character. The chapter upon the development of the brain alone is the most complete which has yet appeared, and is thoroughly up to date. One minor protest must be entered here, that is against the use of the Anglicized German term "aulages" for the beginnings of structures. As pointed out by Hurst, Parker and others, we have already an excellent term in the English "rudiment." A

"rudimental structure" is, properly speaking, an incipient structure, although often improperly used to designate a disappearing or "vestigial" structure.

The bibliography is very complete. The author shows the utmost readiness to give full acknowledgment to his authorities, and appreciates the importance of acquainting the student with the literature at every step. We know of no other work so full of references. Yet there is a matter which certainly should be remedied in a future edition of the work—the titles are referred to by volume numbers and pages, and not by date; this omission renders it very difficult to keep in mind the historic development of the subject. It is safe to say that four out of five persons in this country who will use this book will not be able to consult periodical files for the date.

In conclusion, we would repeat our high opinions of this work. It is certain to find its way into every medical and biological laboratory in the country, carrying with it the author's spirit of thoroughness in investigation and breadth of view in treatment, and cannot fail to exert a widespread influence upon American embryological research.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Congress of Evolutionists held the last week in September, in Memorial Art Palace Chicago, was a decided success and in every way a most satisfactory series of meetings. The Congress extended through three days—three sessions each day. The hall assigned to this Congress was well filled during all the sessions and crowded during some of them. After the opening address by B. F. Underwood, the Chairman, in which was sketched the progress of evolutionary thought, a paper on "Social Evolution and Social Duty," contributed by Herbert Spencer, was read, after which Edward P. Powell gave an address on "Constructive Evolution." During the Congress questions in "Biology" were treated by Dr. M. L. Holbrook, Dr. Edmund Montgomery and Rev. John C. Kimball. Edwin Hayden, Dr. Duren J. H. Ward, Mrs. Sara A. Underwood, Prof. T. J. Burrill, and Miss Mary Proctor (daughter of the great astronomer) paid tributes to "The Heroes of Evolution." Psychology as related to Evolu-

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