

Oxford. With one hundred and eight illustrations. Edinburgh and London, Young J. Pentland; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Price, \$3.25.

Bacteriology as a distinct domain in biology has developed with amazing rapidity within the past few years, owing partly to the stimulus which a new technique has afforded, partly to the keener appreciation of the importance in biology of a knowledge of the simpler life process down near the border line; but more than all, perhaps, to the fact that among the bacteria are a few forms which cause a large part of the acute diseases of men and animals. For the latter reason bacteriology has been a foster child of medicine and, in the minds of many, is only one of the congeries of disciplines which we call medical science. But as our knowledge grows, we realize that the relationships of bacteriology to medicine embrace but a small part of bacteriological lore, which reaches far away from disease and deals with most significant phases of organic life throughout the earth.

In reality, the book before us is not a manual of bacteriology, but a manual dealing with those phases of bacteriology which concern disease, or medical bacteriology.

About one-fourth of the text relates to the general subject of the morphology, biology and technical methods of study of the bacteria; a few pages are devoted to non-pathogenic micro-organisms, while the remainder is given to a general consideration of the relationship of bacteria to disease, and to an epitomized description of the more important infectious diseases, especially of man. A discussion of the significant subject of immunity follows and, finally, in a series of appendices, certain of the important infectious diseases are reviewed whose etiological factors are not bacterial or are as yet unknown.

There are many manuals of medical bacteriology in many languages and of all grades of excellence, and this phase of bacteriology is growing so rapidly that new books and new editions are necessary.

This book of Muir and Ritchie is a most valuable addition to the list and might wisely supersede many of the current elementary works.

It is a well-digested, well-arranged and wisely and clearly expressed epitome of the medical phases of bacteriology and of the bacteriological phases of disease. The historical glimpses of recent studies upon some of the infectious diseases aid greatly in the comprehension of the present point of view regarding them and afford clues which, in connection with the judiciously limited bibliography at the end, may lure and guide the student into a deeper acquaintance with his theme. The illustrations, over one hundred in number, are largely from photo-micrographs and the half-tone reproductions are for the most part as satisfactory as the technical limitations will permit.

The book is altogether excellent, and is really a model epitome of a difficult and complex theme, a safe and stimulating guide to the student and a boon to the busy practitioner who must read as he runs, if he reads at all.

T. M. P.

NEW BOOKS.

The Founders of Geology. SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE. London and New York, The Macmillan Co. 1897. Pp. x+297. \$2.00.

Les ballons-sondes de Mm. Hermite et Besançon et les ascensions internationales. Paris, Gauthier-Villars et fils. 1898.

The Story of Germ Life. H. W. CONN. New York, D. Appleton & Co. Pp. 199.

Health of Body and Mind. T. W. TOPHAM. 1897. Pp. 296.

Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. EDWIN S. CRAWLEY, University of Pennsylvania. 1897. Second edition. Pp. 178.

Physical Experiments. ALFRED P. GAGE. Boston and London, Ginn & Co. 1897. Pp. ix+97.

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 1894-1895. J. W. POWELL. Washington, Government Printing Office. 1897. Pp. cxix+326.

A Correction: We have been requested to call attention to the fact that the sentence on p. 534, at the bottom of the first column of SCIENCE for October 8th last, beginning 'The Boston Trustees,' owing to an oversight was not omitted, as it should have been.