

covery that fermentation, putrefaction and finally, that many diseases are due to micro-organisms, stimulated studies which led to the establishment of the science of bacteriology. The revival in the nineteenth century of the question of spontaneous generation is mentioned, and the great triumph of Pasteur in demonstrating the falsity of the position of the heterogenists. Here also one notes another omission—no reference is made to the luminous researches of Tyndall on this subject with optically pure air. The great influence of embryology as founded on the work of Pander and von Baer is sympathetically although briefly treated. The facts that all animals begin as single cells, and show every gradation between that simple condition and the more complex one of the adult, and that ontogeny is in a sense an epitome of phylogeny, are sufficiently striking to endue this subject with unusual interest. Lastly, the influence of the establishment of the theory of evolution is spoken of.

In physiology the fundamental importance of experiment is pointed out—what the microscope is for anatomy, experiment is for physiology. Among the greatest advances mentioned in the first half of the century are the demonstration of Bell's law and the elaboration of the theory of specific energy by Johannes Müller. The development of physiology along the respective lines of chemical and physical physiology is discussed, together with the opposition aroused by these researches to the old theory of vitalism. The observations as to the action of chemical substances within the bodies of lower animals were turned to practical account in medicine. While physiology was being developed along chemical lines by one school, represented by Claude Bernard, Pettinkofer, Voigt, Pflüger, Heidenhain and others, it was being advanced along physical lines by Robert Meyer, Helmholtz, Ludwig, Dubois-Reymond and others. With the latter school came exact methods of measuring and recording physiological activities, as with the kymograph, myograph, etc. The greatest triumph of the chemical and physical methods was in demonstrating that physiological processes are chemico-physical rather

than vital. But this conception has been carried too far; some physiologists look upon life, with all its complex manifestations, as being entirely chemical and physical. This is as far wrong as the old theory of vitalism. The relation of the physicist to biological questions is similar to that of the chemist. Physiological questions can not be explained on purely chemical and physical grounds. We can not find out the rôle played by albumin in vital processes by study of its chemistry, but by direct study of the protoplasm in living cells. We must return to an anatomico-biological basis and let it be modified by the chemico-physical conception. The material world must be united by biological studies with the manifestations of the immaterial world of life.

WILLIAM A. LOCY.

Comparative Physiology of the Brain and Comparative Psychology. By JACQUES LOEB. The Science Series. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1900. Pp. x+309. \$1.50.

Professor Loeb's book forcibly calls attention to the importance of the comparative method in physiology and psychology. The present work is a translation, with additions and changes, of the German edition of 1900 by Mrs. Loeb. The book has been made into English with singular skill. It is clear, concise, scientifically accurate in statement, and, withal, readable. Of it may truthfully be said 'every words counts.' Whether one agrees or disagrees with any or all of the conclusions reached, the discussion is valuable, for it pleads for opposition, contradiction, investigation. There are not so very many physiologists, we fancy, who will fully agree with all the theories which Professor Loeb seeks to maintain; fewer still are the psychologists who will find themselves in sympathy with his attitude, and among ethical thinkers scarcely any will come to the support of the new scientific construction whose possibility, nay, necessity—for our author is evidently a man of strong convictions—is hinted at. But opposition is needed for the testing of the theories in which the book abounds, although we doubt not that in the main the author's position is a safe one. Nothing is clearer than the seri-