

pointments and even failures of this enterprise we need not dwell. At one period the Johns Hopkins suffered heavy financial losses, and its resources have always fallen far short of its ideals. But hampered as the university has been by lack of money, of equipment, and of men, it has yet been one of the most potent forces in elevating the intellectual standards of our colleges. The young men who gathered at the Johns Hopkins in the early days under Gildersleeve, Rowland, Remsen, and Sylvester were filled with enthusiasm for exact and extensive learning. There is always, we grant, the danger that vast erudition will not become assimilated and humanized; that it will remain mere pedantry. This peril the graduates of Johns Hopkins incurred; and some of them did not wholly escape it. But in the seventies and eighties our education was less Germanized than now and in an era of slipshod training, Johns Hopkins offered the kind of severe drill that was sorely needed. The graduates carried the gospel of a rigorous scholarship from one end of the country to the other, and made it more and more necessary for teachers, both in college and school, to be masters of their subject. This was perhaps Dr. Gilman's greatest contribution to the cause of education in America. How great it is we can not yet estimate; for the men whom he and his faculty prepared for teaching are yet with us, distinguished in their various callings, and we can not view their labors in proper perspective.

It was Dr. Gilman's fortunate lot also to guide the Carnegie Institution of Washington in its first three years. The conception of foundations for scientific research had made very slight headway in this country. We have had a few laboratories that are endowed, and here and there a university has been willing to maintain a professor—say, in astronomy—who is not expected to teach, but who can devote his energies to extending the limits of our knowledge. But the notion of research, without prospect of return in cash dividends, has not appealed to a utilitarian people. More than that, few colleges, under the pressure of undergraduates demanding instruction, have been able to set aside funds

that did not seem immediately productive. The Carnegie Institution, then, like the Johns Hopkins, was established at a moment of need. We can not doubt that in the long run it will do as much, perhaps even more, to raise the standards and the tone of scholarship in America. It was fortunate in receiving its first shaping from the hands of a man of Mr. Gilman's long experience and wide views.—*New York Evening Post.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Harvey Lectures. Delivered under the Auspices of The Harvey Society of New York, 1906-7, by Professors A. E. WRIGHT, C. A. HERTER, W. T. PORTER, J. G. ADAMI, F. G. BENEDICT, E. B. WILSON, GEORGE S. HUNTINGTON, W. T. COUNCILMAN, FRIEDRICH MÜLLER and Dr. S. J. MELTZER. Pp. 1-314. Philadelphia and London, J. B. Lippincott Company. 1908.

The appearance of this volume marks the completion of the second year of the Harvey Society. Starting more or less as an experiment based on the assumption that there was a desire on the part of practitioners of medicine to acquire at first hand from men engaged in research more knowledge concerning the scientific problems and principles underlying their profession, the Harvey Society has made for itself a permanent place as a factor in higher medical education. Its usefulness is no longer a matter of doubt, but is now an assured fact. Nor is its sphere a local one, since through the publication of its lectures, these are brought within reach of all.

This paragraph from the preface of the present volume states concisely the position of the Harvey Society. The society was organized in 1905 for the purpose of bringing before medical practitioners the results of important scientific investigation in medical and allied fields. It has a membership of one hundred and seventy-five investigators or practitioners of New York City, and has now held three courses of lectures. Those of the first course were published in 1906, those of the third course are soon to appear, and the present volume includes the ten lectures of the second course. Foreign men of science are represented by two men of distinction: Sir

Almroth E. Wright, of London, whose work on the opsonic index has opened a new field of many possibilities, discusses the principles of vaccine therapy, especially under the guidance of the opsonic index; while Professor Müller, the eminent clinician of Munich, reviews the nervous affections of the heart, from the standpoint of one who is familiar with modern cardiac physiology and pathology. Professor Herter, of Columbia, discusses the common bacterial infections of the digestive tract and the intoxications arising from them—a subject which his researches have made largely his own. Professor Porter, of Harvard, discusses vasomotor relations in animals and men, partly with reference to the theory of vasomotor depression in shock, and presents many results of his own experiments. Professor Adami, of McGill, deals with the myelins and potential fluid crystalline bodies of the organism, showing their wide distribution and their physical and chemical relations. Dr. Meltzer, of the Rockefeller Institute, under the title "The factors of safety in animal structure and animal economy," raises the question whether in the structures and functions of the animal organism considerations of economy or of luxury, the latter involving the factor of safety, are paramount, and demonstrates the wide occurrence of safety mechanisms. Professor Benedict, the director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, presents the results of a long series of observations on the metabolism of human beings during inanition, the work having been done with the aid of the large respiration calorimeter at Wesleyan University. Professor Wilson, of Columbia, summarizes the results of some recent studies of heredity, especially certain researches on the chromosomes, which may prove to furnish a physical explanation of the main facts of Mendelian heredity. Professor Huntington, of Columbia, presents the standpoint of the modern anatomist in an article, accompanied by many illustrations from his own preparations, on "The genetic interpretation and surgical significance of some variations of the genito-urinary tract." Professor Councilman, of Harvard, describes the changes in the

lymphoid tissue in certain of the infectious diseases, particularly in diphtheria, scarlet fever and small-pox.

Each lecture represents a valuable summary of present knowledge in its specific field. Furthermore, the lack and uncertainties of present knowledge are often indicated, and the possibilities of investigation along specific lines are emphasized. It is in the element of stimulating suggestiveness that the value and charm of the book largely lie. Each author writes as a master in his own subject, and the reader can not fail to feel this. The whole volume reflects the spirit of the modern scientific method, of which each author is an able exponent.

The Harvey Society has already received wide attention and approbation outside the immediate circle of its auditors. With its annual output from the leaders in the medical sciences it is doing a most important work in bridging the gap, which ought never to exist unbridged, between the laboratory investigator and the medical practitioner. Its annual volume of lectures can not fail to find a wide circle of readers.

FREDERIC S. LEE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Pollution of New York Harbor as a Menace to Health by the Dissemination of Intestinal Diseases through the Agency of the Common House Fly. A report by DANIEL D. JACKSON, S.B., to the Committee on Pollution of the Merchants' Association of New York. The Merchants' Association of New York, New York City, N. Y., July, 1908. 22 pp.; maps Nos. 1 and 2, 3 diagrams, 2 plates, 1 table.

This attractive little report of an investigation of the sanitary conditions of the waterfront of New York City made during the breeding season of 1907 deserves attention, especially from the sanitarian and the medical profession if not from the general biologist and the laity.

The investigation consisted of an inspection of the entire water-front of the city in order to show the presence of numerous sources of infection and breeding places for