

Austrian Meteorological Society, he expresses the fear that the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift* may cease publication for want of funds. This would be a deplorable circumstance and a distinct loss to meteorology and science. He asks for subscriptions, the price being only \$3.20 U. S. currency per year. It is hoped that this note may secure not only renewals, temporarily dropped during the war, but also new subscriptions, so that this valuable periodical may be saved from extinction.

OTTO KLOTZ

DOMINION OBSERVATORY,
December 6

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

RECENT ADVANCES IN PALEOPATHOLOGY

AN important contribution to the study of the origin and evolution of diseased conditions is contained in the recent volume by Dr. John M. Clarke¹ whose previous studies on this subject have enriched the literature of paleopathology.² He has, in the present essay, given a popularized account of his accurate paleontological studies, dealing with the nature of disease and the geological indications of its evolution. He calls attention specifically to the fact that there has been an evolution of disease similar to the evolution of organic forms. Certainly the evidence points to a progressive increase in pathological conditions throughout the geological ages.

Dr. Clarke's evidences are all selected from the field of invertebrate fossils in which his wide acquaintance with invertebrate paleontology and stratigraphy gives his opinion the greater weight. Only a specialist in this field would be able to discriminate benign pathological conditions from those of accidental post-fossilization erosions.

The author has a deeper purpose in view than merely contributing to the subject of

¹ "Organic Dependence and Disease: Their Origin and Significance," Yale University Press, October, 1921, pp. 1-113; 105 figures.

² "The Beginnings of Dependent Life," Fourth Annual Report, State Museum of New York, 1908, pp. 1-28, 13 plates and text-figures.

paleopathology and his essay is a philosophical study of the nature of symbiotic and parasitic conditions of the ancient Paleozoic world.

This subject has been further enriched by the appearance of another volume dealing with the evidence of disease during a more recent period of the world's history.³ This volume was prepared under the supervision of Lady Alice Ruffer of Ramleh, Egypt, as a memorial to her husband who lost his life in the recent war. The volume consists of nineteen essays which had been previously published in various journals, chiefly the *Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology*. These deal with detailed accounts of Sir Ruffer's studies on ancient Egyptian mummies; one paper relating to a condition of spondylitis deformans in a crocodile from the Miocene of Egypt.

These reprinted essays are accompanied by a brief biographical sketch and a list of Ruffer's writings.

Ancient Peru has contributed greatly to our knowledge of paleopathology, and the civilizations of the Incas and their predecessors have a diligent student in Edmundo Escomel,⁴ a practising physician in Arequipa, Peru. His most recent contributions deal with discussions of the ancient surgical art of Peru; the instruments and results obtained, seen especially well in the numerous trephined skulls of the ancient Peruvian burials.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

A SIMPLE METHOD OF OBTAINING PREMATURE EGGS FROM BIRDS

IN connection with studies on the relation of the endocrine glands to sex and reproduc-

³ Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, "Studies in the Palaeopathology of Egypt," University of Chicago Press, October, 1921, pp. i-xx and 1-371; illustrated by 71 plates.

⁴ Dr. Edmundo Escomel, "Ciencia y arte en la prehistoria peruana," printed privately, Lima, Peru.