

Book Reviews

Mental disorders in later life. Oscar J. Kaplan. (Ed.) Stanford Univ.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1945. Pp. vii + 436. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

Within the last few years physicians, psychologists, sociologists, biochemists, and physiologists have come to see the importance of diseases peculiar to old age, and a large number of publications has appeared dealing with various aspects of the problem of geriatrics. It is obvious that these different phases of the subject are closely interrelated and must be considered in an integrated fashion if they are to bring positive results. It is gratifying, therefore, to see that the editor of this book has been able to enlist the aid of well-known authorities on the subject and has produced an integrated presentation of most of its important phases. As is always the case in contributions of this type, its separate chapters vary both in importance and quality of the presentation.

The most valuable of the chapters are those dealing with the physiological aspects of these diseases, the psychological investigations, the neuroses of later maturity, the psychoses occurring at this age, the psychosomatic problems, and the psychotherapeutic methods. It is interesting to note that in all of these there seems to be a consensus as to what constitutes the important nucleus of the problem, and we are impressed particularly by the following points:

(1) The maladjustments associated with old age are not so much dependent upon actual destruction of tissue as they are upon the disturbances in homeostasis.

(2) The disturbances in old age cannot be said to be due primarily to either organic changes or the impact of social problems but must be regarded as the result of a combination of both.

(3) Both the neuroses in general and the psychosomatic disturbances in particular, occurring at this age, may be of two types: those that are encountered at any age, and those that are especially characteristic of the later years.

(4) Finally, and perhaps the most hopeful feature as far as practical therapy is concerned, are the points brought out both in the chapter on neuroses and that on treatment—that psychotherapeutic efforts are definitely worth while and can be successful in old age.

Some of the chapters leave us with the feeling that not enough stress has been placed on points of importance. This is true, for instance, of the chapter on sociological aspects, where the broad social implications of age and the attitudes of society in general are not brought out as sharply as one would wish, and of that on the problems of nutrition in old age, which is entirely too short and too superficial to be of as much value as one would have expected.

Finally, there are two chapters that leave one with the question as to whether they really belong in this book. One is a chapter on older mental patients after long hospitalization,

which in itself is an excellent contribution but has really not much bearing on the problem of aging. The other is the chapter on toxic deliria in which entirely too much space is devoted to the discussion of extraneous subjects and polemics.

There is a brief introduction by Dr. Karl Bowman which presents the general aspects of the problem and a very thoughtful concluding chapter by Dr. E. J. Stieglitz on systematic orientation. On the whole, the book makes a very good impression and is recommended to the reader as a very worthwhile contribution to the studies of personality disturbances in later maturity.

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Industrial and commercial geography. (3rd ed.) J. Russell Smith and M. Ogden Phillips. New York: Henry Holt, 1946. Pp. xiii + 978. (Illustrated.) \$4.90.

Textbooks are so characteristically dull that it is a relief to read one which maintains a high level of interest for more than 900 pages. The volume surveys the industries of the world as they have been affected by the Power Age. In an undertaking so comprehensive, this is a feat worthy of note.

The effectiveness of the book must be attributed in large part to the authors' ability to write readable English. By vivid writing they succeed in convincing the reader that man's relation to his environment is a dynamic subject, not a static or dead concept.

Starting with a brief survey of energy sources and fundamental factors affecting manufacture, the authors describe in turn the great industries of the world for each continent. The fuels are presented first and are followed by iron and steel, other metals, and nonmetals. This sequence has the advantage of focusing attention on the basic industry, but has a disadvantage in that the topics of forestry, agriculture, animal industries, and fishing are apt to seem anticlimactic. Smith and Phillips avoid this pitfall by close integration between subjects and by stressing the perpetual nature of agriculture. The ultimate exhaustion of all mineral deposits emphasizes the fact that, historically, agriculture was the first industry developed, and in the final analysis it may prove to be the mainstay of civilization. It is possible that an historical approach, starting with agriculture and building up to the climax, the iron and steel industry, might have strengthened this tenet and added an element of suspense, thus giving greater unity to the volume.

The description of the world's resources and industries occupies 733 pages. The final section, which presents an analysis of world commerce, unfortunately contains the only conspicuously poor writing in the book. There are some involved sentences, and occasionally the authors' meaning is given a ludicrous connotation that certainly was never intended. For

example, on page 813, appears the statement: "It (the reindeer) is a great aid to prospectors and miners in the search for minerals in which Alaska and northern Canada seem to be promising." The casual reader is left with the impression that the prospectors are using reindeer as super-bloodhounds for tracking down new mineral localities.

The chief criticism of *Industrial and commercial geography* concerns a fact that lies beyond the control of the authors, namely, consideration of the prewar period as the norm. Because of the dynamic nature of geography, it is doubtful whether conditions can revert entirely to their prewar state.

It is regrettable that the pictures are so poorly reproduced. The graphs and maps are numerous and generally illuminating. The information on some of the maps is so microscopic that it is undecipherable. The method of numbering illustrations by pages is highly commended, since this saves both the reader's time and temper.

This book should prove effective as a text, because of its wealth of information and its readability, and valuable as a reference to students of economics, sociology, and government as well as to geographers.

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La pathologie des oiseaux. G. Lesbouyries. Paris: Vigot Frères, 1941. Pp. 868. (Illustrated.) 1,000 fr.

The author of this work is a professor of veterinary medicine, and the title is likely to prove misleading to ornithologists seeking information on diseases of wild birds. Nevertheless, the book should receive notice outside its strict field because of its extremely detailed treatment of a broad range of infectious maladies, some of which are associated with manifestations in nature.

Dr. Lesbouyries calls attention to the fact that investigation of avian disease has been responsible for a number of important advances in the history of medicine. He then discusses, in order, malnutritions, tumors, infections (virus, bacterial, protozoan, fungus), malformations, glandular affections, endo- and ectoparasites, etc. Each disease which has received a name is minutely described in terms of symptoms and cellular pathology, and its history, treatment, and prophylaxis are adequately discussed, at least in so far as they relate to barnyard fowl. Mention of other birds is scanty, and references to parrots, crows, penguins, quail, falcons, eagles, owls, doves, magpies, larks, and finches seem to be drawn entirely from literature rather than from firsthand clinical experience.

Despite its wealth of information for those who wish to search it out, nonmedical ornithologists will deeply regret the lack of a table of contents, an index, and a bibliography. Authors and the dates of their publications are cited in profusion, but the absence of a formal bibliography is excused on the ground that it would "submerge the text" of the huge volume.

The reader seeks in vain for accounts of spectacular pandemics among wild populations, such as the Peruvian guano fowl, the fulmars of the North Atlantic, and the wild ducks of the western United States, all of which have become the subjects of a considerable scientific literature.

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Scientific Book Register

ADAMS, ROGER. (Ed.-in-Chief.) *Organic reactions*. (Vol. III.) New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1946. Pp. viii + 460. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

FULTON, JOHN F. and MADELINE E. (Compilers.) *The centennial of surgical anesthesia: an annotated catalogue of books and pamphlets bearing on the early history of surgical anesthesia*. New York: Henry Schuman, 1946. Pp. xv + 102. \$4.00.

GARNER, WIGHTMAN W. *The production of tobacco*. Philadelphia-Toronto: Blakiston, 1946. Pp. xiii + 516. (Illustrated.) \$4.50.

GATES, REGINALD RUGGLES. *Human genetics* (Vols. I and II.) New York: Macmillan, 1946. Vol I: Pp. xvi + 742; Vol II: Pp. vi + 743-1517. (Illustrated.) \$15.00 for set.

HARRIS, SEALE. *Banting's miracle: the story of the discoverer of insulin*. Philadelphia-London-Montreal: J. B. Lippincott, 1946. Pp. xx + 245. (Illustrated.) \$3.00.

HOGBEN, LANCELOT. *An introduction to mathematical genetics*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1946. Pp. xii + 260. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

MONTAGU, M. F. ASHLEY. *Adolescent sterility: a study in the comparative physiology of the infecundity of the adolescent organism in mammals and man*. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1946. Pp. ix + 148. (Illustrated.) \$3.50.

SHERMAN, HENRY C. *Foods: their values and management*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1946. Pp. viii + 221. (Illustrated.) \$3.25.

STUTTERHEIM, N. A. *Squint and convergence: a study in di-opthalmology*. London: H. K. Lewis, 1946. Pp. vii + 96. (Illustrated.) 15/—.

SWIETOSLAWSKI, W. *Microcalorimetry*. New York: Reinhold, 1946. Pp. x + 199. (Illustrated.) \$4.75.

VERDOORN, FRANS. (Ed.) *Merrilleana: a selection from the general writings of Elmer Drew Merrill, Sc.D., LL.D.* (*Chronica Botanica*, Vol. 10, No. 3/4.) Waltham, Mass.: Chronica Botanica Co.; New York: G. E. Stechert, 1946. Pp. 127-394. (Illustrated.) \$4.00.

ZEUNER, FREDERICK E. *Dating the past: an introduction to geochronology*. London: Methuen & Co., 1946. Pp. xviii + 444. (Illustrated.) 30s.

ZWARENSTEIN, H., SAPEIKA, N., and SHAPIRO, H. A. (Compilers.) *Xenopus Laevis: a bibliography*. Cape Town, Africa: African Bookman, 1946. Pp. 52.

—. *DDT and other insecticides and repellents developed for the armed forces*. (Prepared by the Orlando, Florida Laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.) (U. S. Department of Agriculture Misc. Publ. No. 606.) Washington, D. C.: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1946. Pp. 71. (Illustrated.)

—. *Penicillin: its properties, uses and preparations*. (Published by direction of the Council of The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.) London: Pharmaceutical Press, 1946. Pp. viii + 199. (Illustrated.) 10/6.