

Book Reviews

Veterinary bacteriology. (3rd ed.) Ival Arthur Merchant. Ames, Ia: Iowa State College Press, 1946. Pp. viii + 683. (Illustrated.) \$7.00.

The third edition of Merchant's *Veterinary bacteriology* will be welcomed by teachers, students, and practitioners. Practically all the bacteria which cause diseases in domestic animals are discussed. In addition, several which affect only man, such as *Eberthella typhosa*, are included. The text is well written, thoroughly comprehensive, and most valuable for instructional and reference purposes. It should be on the shelf of all practitioners and in the libraries of veterinary students. The illustrations are well chosen and typography is good.

Sections on the general biology of microorganisms, infection, resistance, and immunity, and discussions on pathogenic yeast, molds, and viruses, with chapters on the spirochetes, rickettsiae, bacteriophage, and the pleuropneumonia group, are welcome additions, as is the chapter on antibiotics. Reference to *Proteus ammoniae*, *Hemophilus bovis*, and *Clostridium sordellii* is a valuable addition.

ROBERT GRAHAM

College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Illinois, Urbana

Rehabilitation through better nutrition. Tom D. Spies. Philadelphia-London: W. B. Saunders, 1947. Pp. iv + 94. (Illustrated.) \$4.00.

Experiences with folic acid. Tom D. Spies. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, 1947. Pp. 110. (Illustrated.) \$3.75.

Both of these small books are essentially reports of clinical researches in nutrition conducted at the Hillman Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama. The monograph on folic acid is an excellent résumé of studies of this important element of the vitamin B complex and the role which folic acid plays in hematopoiesis. Evidence is presented supporting the contention that folic acid is as effective as is liver extract in stimulating blood regeneration in patients with pernicious anemia, nutritional macrocytic anemia, sprue, and pellagra. However, folic acid does not protect the patient from the central and peripheral changes in the nervous system so commonly present in pernicious anemia. Furthermore, large amounts are necessary to produce as satisfactory a hematopoietic response as that obtained with liver extracts, which contain but minute quantities of folic acid. It is highly probable that other elements, as yet undiscovered, are involved in primary pernicious anemia. The volume contains a carefully selected bibliography of some 80 titles.

Rehabilitation through better nutrition does not live up to its overly ambitious title. This 94-page monograph is essentially a report of the studies on the many grossly undernourished patients seen in the nutrition clinic: florid pellagra, sprue, scurvy, and deficiency anemias respond brilliantly to adequate nutritional therapy. The limitations of vitamin and mineral supplemental feeding are clearly stated; when prolonged deficiency has existed and the reserves have been depleted for some time, certain irreversible effects result

which are not amenable to vitamin or mineral therapy. A thorough discussion of the variability in requirements points out the invalidity of the assumption that the minimum food requirements are constant. Requirements are affected by race, age, environment, health, work, and the like.

Enthusiasm is as necessary for scientific research and the advance of knowledge as are the vitamins to normal growth. But when enthusiasm leads to such asymmetry of thinking that perspective is lost, it ceases to be wholly desirable. The glitter of the brilliant discoveries concerning the vitamins, trace minerals, hormones, enzymes, and the like has blinded too many students of nutritional problems. The recent literature on nutrition is filled with the erroneous assumption that malnutrition means only deficiency in nutrition. Malnutrition is bad nutrition and includes the effects of excesses as well. Obesity is just as much a nutritional disease as pellagra or rickets or scurvy. As a menace to national health and therefore a problem of social medicine, obesity is more significant than undernutrition, despite the asymmetric emphasis of gross deficiency states in the South. We should not ignore the fact that 28 per cent of the population of the United States are 10 per cent or more *over* their optimum weight, whereas only 12.8 per cent are 10 per cent or more *under* their mean normal weight. However, there is no mention whatever of rehabilitation of the obese in Dr. Spies's monograph. Nor is there mention of the importance of water as a nutritional necessity. If the title were "Therapy of Gross Nutritional Deficiencies," the reviewer would have nothing but praise for this scholarly, scientific report. As it is, one fears that certain uncritical readers will feel that the rules formulated therein are the answer to all of mankind's ills.

EDWARD J. STIEGLITZ

1726 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Animal nutrition. (2nd ed.) Leonard A. Maynard. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1947. Pp. xviii + 494. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

The second edition of this text presents the chemistry and physiology of nutrition with application to the feeding of farm animals in much the same sequence and style as the first.

During the 9 years since the first edition of this book appeared, significant advances have been made. Of particular importance have been the advances in the field of the vitamins, enzymes, amino acids, and minerals. The author, in bringing the work up to date, has extensively revised many sections of the text and made deletions of less important material, thereby keeping the book close to its original size.

The book is well written in an interesting, readable, and understandable style. The literature citations and reference lists are exceptionally well chosen and should prove particularly helpful to the student.

As before, this book fills a niche in the literature for instructional purposes where suitable texts are not numerous.

T. S. SUTTON

Ohio State University, Columbus