Book Reviews

Legal Medicine. Pathology and Toxicology. Thomas A. Gonzales, Morgan Vance, Milton Helpern, and Charles J. Umberger. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, ed. 2, 1954. 1297 pp. $22.

This extremely well-organized textbook is more fascinating than the most skilfully written detective story or the best-illustrated treatise on pathology, perhaps because the intriguing elements of each are so thoroughly blended. It is much more than an excellent textbook on pathology written with emphasis on items in the specialty that have medicolegal importance; it is a carefully integrated book in which the contributions of medicine and law are fused.

As in the previous edition, the major portion of the volume is devoted to pathological problems in forensic medicine —that is, medical problems arising in the professional practice of law.

The first edition in 1937 contained 706 pages and a 14-page appendix on the organization and statistics of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York. The second edition has been increased to 1297 pages; it has a 14-page appendix on qualitative chemical analysis and the text of the law that established the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York. The index of the present volume, as in the case of the original edition, is a respectable 2.7 percent of the total number of pages. In addition, there is á greater than usual amount of cross-referencing in the text itself, which makes for ease in locating all data on each topic.

The three chapters on medical jurisprudence, a term limited by the authors to the area of the law that is concerned with the regulations governing the professional practice of physicians, have been increased from 17 pages to a total of 47 with an added section on medical testimony in court. The topic of malpractice has been expanded to 12½ pages, the section on insanity to 18. Invaluable advice is given to the physician who is called to handle an emergency.

Occupational toxicology, a specialty in itself with obvious medicolegal aspects, is adequately covered.

The chapter on ethyl alcohol has a penetrating analysis of the medicolegal aspects of intoxication combined with a careful evaluation of experimental work on this subject. In this chapter, there are cross references to an earlier section on the influence of alcohol on trauma and the medicolegal aspects of the handling of injured alcoholics.

The volume should be helpful to law students who are engaged in preparing cases for trial in moot court and will be an especially valuable basic reference for the practicing attorney. It should find its place with the standard hornbooks on various areas of the law. The explanations of the effect of fatal variance between pleadings and evidence, burden of proof, directed verdict, and the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* are unusually clear. An excellent illustration of causal relationship is found in the material on fatalities following surgery. The section on malpractice, equally valuable to medical and to law students, is a concise exposition of tort action arising out of contract.

There is an interesting presentation, in a few words, of the origins of the coroner system, its disadvantages, and the growing trend to its replacement by the medical examiner system. The excellence of the book itself, which was written by members of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York, is a very convincing argument for the medical examiner system.

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Photosynthesis. Monograph on biochemical subjects. Robert Hill and C. P. Whittingham. Methuen, London; Wiley, New York, 1955. vii + 165 pp. Illus. $2.

In a field as diverse and complex as photosynthesis, space limitations force writers of review articles to produce either specialized discussions of narrow fragments of the field or accounts so brief that they are little better than annotated bibliographies. Complete monographs (such as the excellent two-volume work, *Photosynthesis,* by E. Rabinowitch) tend to become veritable encyclopedias, which are so long and involve so many different disciplines that few, if any, experts could claim to be competent in all parts of the material covered. For these reasons, Hill and Whittingham's short monograph is especially welcome. It should serve admirably as an introduction to photosynthesis or as a general review for those who specialize in some restricted phase of the subject.

Although this book is, generally speaking, a popular account, it does demand some familiarity on the part of the reader with the facts and language of chemistry and physiology. It is a readable book, with few tables and no footnotes. Its authors have maintained a good balance between the theoretical and experimental approaches to the subject. All important aspects of photosynthesis are adequately outlined, but the biochemistry of the problem is treated in somewhat greater detail than are its physiology and physical chemistry. I noticed a few minor misstatements in Chapters 2 and 3, but they are probably of interest only to specialists.

This monograph should be read by biochemists and physiologists and, indeed, by everyone who is interested in the fascinating problem of photosynthesis.

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Kinships of Animals and Man. A textbook of animal biology. Ann H. Morgan. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1955. 839 pp. Illus. $6.75.

When I was asked to review this book, I agreed, thinking it was about the kinships of animals and man, about the ever-fascinating problem of man's place in nature. To my surprise, the book turned out to be a quite conventional introductory textbook of zoology. Why do we have this current fashion of putting *man* into the titles of biological books and biological courses? When it is the same old material, served up in the same old way, it looks like some kind of a trick to catch the trade. The general education people have a point, I think, in trying to encourage biologists to stress human implications in some of their courses; but the biologists are hardly cooperating by the lip service of changing titles only.

As far as I can judge, Ann Morgan has written a good introductory textbook for zoology. She starts out with a section on "The foundation," which covers some of the elementary ideas of physics, physical chemistry, and cellular physiology in a simple-minded sort of way, probably appropriate for ignorant freshmen. She then, in part 2, devotes three chap-