The book retains its primary value as a teaching aid for introductory courses of pharmacognosy as customarily taught in colleges of pharmacy. The inclusion of considerable reference material extends its usefulness to graduate students in the field and to workers in related fields. The writing style is good, and descriptive material is clearly presented. The characteristically excellent morphologic data, valuable in the identification and evaluation of drugs, are well supported by many drawings and photographs.

Claus has instituted timely improvements in the choice of material for inclusion in the text. Discussions of many of the crude drugs of lesser importance have been reduced or deleted, with corresponding emphasis on those more useful to current medical and technologic practice. The chapter on "Allergens and allergenic preparations" has been expanded and reflects well Claus' own experience in teaching this valuable phase of pharmacognosy. The chapter on "Pesticides" has been similarly enlarged in response to the increasing emphasis on pest control and the use of chemical agents for this purpose.

The chapters on "Antibiotics," on "Immunizing biologicals," on "Vitamins and vitamin-containing drugs," and on "Endocrine products" have been rewritten. Discussions of these subjects involve considerable overlapping and some reiteration of subject matter basic to other disciplines in the pharmaceutical curriculum. While I recognize the usefulness of their inclusion in this text, I believe that this value will vary with the treatment given these topics in courses prerequisite or subsequent to the one for which this book is designed. Minor omissions may be noted, as for example the omission of levarterenol bitartrate in the description of the adrenal medulla.

A new heading, "Prescription products," is included for many drugs, as an indication of their inclusion in current pharmaceuticals. The lists given are not complete, and the rapid changes in such categories may lessen the value of these listings in the future. The policy of stating uses and doses continues for many drugs. These follow official descriptions for drugs included in the *Pharmacopeia of the United States of America* or the *National Formulary*. For many, obsolete terms are retained; a review of these in the light of current pharmacologic thinking might well be considered in future revisions.

Appendixes are provided to continue the presentation, in convenient form, of considerable material valuable to the basic study of crude drugs. These include "Powdered drugs" and a "Key to the identification of powders," the "Cultivation of drug plants," and "A taxonomic list of important drugs."

This textbook remains a standard work in the presentation of pharmacognosy. Elements of transition are apparent in the choice and handling of subject matter, yet basic values are retained. I anticipate the continued excellence of future editions of this familiar book in the hands of the current author.

FRANK T. MAHER
Mayo Clinic

An Atlas of Diseases of the Eye. E. S. Perkins and Peter Hansell. Little, Brown, Boston, 1957. 91 pp. Illus. $10.

This most recent and beautifully printed atlas of diseases of the eye covers the commoner external and internal diseases and disorders with superbly colored drawings and photographs and concise text, with the latest information on each subject. It is designed for general physicians and for students, to fill an urgent need. The former will find answers to questions regarding vascular and general systemic disease in which the eye participates. In addition to this, the student may differentiate the trivial from the more important.

The photography is excellent, and the drawings are incomparable. The format is modern, attractive, and very readable. By means of eight-color photolithography, the printer has achieved the best possible results with the illustrations. Roche Products, Ltd., subsidized the work, which, because of this, sells at a fraction of the cost of the printing.

RAYMOND L. PFEIFFER
Institute of Ophthalmology, New York

Textbook of Human Anatomy. J. D. Boyd, Wilfrid E. LeGros Clark, W. J. Hamilton, J. M. Yoffey, Solly Zuckerman, and A. B. Appleton. Macmillan, London, 1957 (order from St. Martin's Press, New York 17). 1022 pp. Illus. $16.50.

The three standard systematic anatomies in current use are tomes in the 1500- to 1700-page range—6 to 7 pounds of book. When they first appeared 55, 64, and 99 years ago, they were much smaller, but they have grown with nearly every edition until each has become a compromise between a reference compilation and a textbook. Cunningham's *Manual* and Grant's *Method,* as topographic rather than systematic approaches, have found a place in anatomic pedagogy, but, except for the now defunct *Piersol,* the "big three" among the systematic books have had no serious competitors for half a century.

This new work is a textbook designed for the beginning student who, because of curriculum changes, often has less time now for anatomy than he did a few years ago. The standard approach is notably abridged, and the resulting book has less than 1000 pages of reading matter. These changes for the benefit of the beginner will, however, give the book less value on the physician's reference shelf.

The six British anatomists who have collaborated are representatives of anatomy departments at the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol, Birmingham, and London. Hamilton and Yoffey wrote the introduction; Hamilton is author of chapters on the locomotor system (258 pp.) and on the digestive system (98 pp.). Yoffey's chapters deal with the cardiovascular system, including lymphatics (113 pp.), and with the respiratory system (33 pp.) and the spleen (4 pp.). Zuckerman has chapters on the urogenital system (100 pp.), on the ductless glands (34 pp.), and on growth (22 pp.). Clark writes on the central nervous system (129 pp.), and Boyd takes up the peripheral nervous system (143 pp.) and the sense organs, including the skin.

Two things about the plan and organization strike one immediately. First, each chapter contains a fairly large number of orientating remarks, anatomic generalities, and correlations. The authors try to present anatomy as the science of body structure rather than as a listing of topographic relationships. Depending on the topic at hand, these correlations may refer to embryologic or phylogenetic features, to the classification of information, to function, to x-ray appearances, or to aging, growth, and variation. Correlations with microscopic anatomy are more extensive in this book than in other textbooks of gross anatomy. About 15 percent of the book treats of generalities of the sort mentioned.

The second thing to be noted is that the usual detailed descriptive anatomy is markedly abridged. For instance, an artery is described simply as arising in a certain way, proceeding in front of such-and-such a structure, and supplying a certain region by means of ascending and descending branches. Details on the relations of the vessel and on the minor branches and distribution are omitted. Descriptions of individual carpal, metacarpal, and phalangeal bones, and of the minor foot and skull bones, are curtailed or omitted. The facial muscles of expression are named, but only four are described. Anatomists are bound to question the desirability and extent of the cutting that was done in various