

places. On the whole, however, the surgery has been skillfully done, and the body that remains is not notably disfigured.

There is no reason why a medical or dental student, with this textbook, a good atlas, and the usual laboratory facilities, could not have a superior course. The textbook, however, will meet with different degrees of enthusiasm from teachers of anatomy. These will assess students' needs differently, and there will be questions about the advisability of this abridgment or that.

Textbook of Human Anatomy, despite the multiple authorship, is simply written; short declarative sentences predominate. Most of the illustrations are colored halftones, and these, on the whole, are diagrammatic, clear, and effective. The paper is heavy and glossy, and the format is attractive. The index seems adequate.

One may reasonably question whether an abridged account of the tracts and finer organization of the central nervous system (even one as effectively handled as Clark's chapter is) should occupy space in a gross anatomy textbook when whole books and special courses are devoted to neuroanatomy. A treatment of meninges, blood supply, external relations, and the ventricular system should suffice.

It is unfortunate, for the American user, that the authors did not delay publication of the edition long enough to permit them to incorporate the Paris revision (1955) of the Basel nomina anatomica terminology instead of the Birmingham revision, which has never been used here.

Several of the illustrations, especially those of the muscles of the back and arm, were reduced too much in size for clarity. The use of a red, or pink, halftone overlay to represent areas of muscle attachment on halftone figures of bones is often not clear. In the section on autonomic nerves, fine yellow lines in the diagrams, indicating nerves, do not show up well, especially under artificial light. The deep blue color added as an overlay to certain figures often obscures more than it clarifies. There are occasional lapses—mislabeling of figures or failures to correlate text and figures—but these are not too bothersome. The geniohyoid muscle was grouped with the scalene muscles! Sometimes, for the smaller muscles, the nerve supply was not mentioned.

No references whatever are listed. Because of the heavy, glossy paper, the book is nearly as big and as heavy as the older textbooks that have 50 percent more pages. The binding does not appear sturdy enough for the weight of the book and for student handling.

The greater part of the information in

Textbook of Human Anatomy is of the conventional sort. Many provocative references in the *British Journal of Anatomy* and in the American and European literature of the last 25 years or more have been ignored, which could have added a notable flavor of freshness to this book.

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Lehrbuch der Tropenkrankheiten. Ernst G. Nauck. Thieme, Stuttgart, 1956 (order from Intercontinental Medical Book Corp., New York 16). 432 pp. Illus. \$15.25.

Until the appearance of this volume, no German-language textbook on tropical diseases had been published since 1942. The present book has a twofold purpose—it is intended for use by students in the Institut für Schiffs- und Tropenkrankheiten, in Hamburg, and for German-speaking practitioners in tropical climates. Ernst Nauck, director of the institute, has, as associates in this undertaking, a large group of distinguished German specialists, yet the chapters have been so closely knit together that they constitute a well-integrated presentation.

The sequence of subjects is somewhat unusual, beginning with arthropods as agents and vectors of disease, followed by parasitic worms, protozoans, spirochetes, bacteria, rickettsias, tropical viruses and fungi, nutritional deficiencies, diseases of various other etiologies, and finally poisonous animals. The last 19 pages provide a comprehensive subject index.

In the beginning of the first section it is stated that tropical medicine, unlike other areas of medical science and practice, requires a fundamental understanding of biology, because of the preponderance of parasitic diseases in warm climates; such knowledge is essential for appreciating the clinical and epidemiologic implications of most tropical diseases. This emphasis is maintained throughout the volume, without sacrificing the practical goal. The material presented under each causative agent includes etiology, geographic distribution, epidemiology, pathogenesis, symptomatology, diagnosis, and clinical management and control. Although the techniques and therapeutic procedures recommended are principally those developed by German workers, important contributions by American and other investigators have not been excluded. Owing, no doubt, to space limitation, sources for most of the information presented have not been cited.

Very few errors or omissions have been noted. On page 48 (first paragraph),

"Scott" instead of "Stoll" has been credited with estimation of the amount of global schistosomiasis. In discussing the intestinal amebas (pages 110, 115, 126) the German concept and terminology are followed with respect to *Entamoeba histolytica* as the tissue invader and the morphologically indistinguishable *E. hartmanni* as the lumen parasite. Figure 42 (page 115) suggests that the latter form is a "small race." Chemotherapy for eradication of these two forms is separately but satisfactorily presented. In the color illustrations for thin-film preparations of the human malaria parasites (Figs. 53 to 56) there is an inconsistency in the legends (an apparent oversight) between the designation for male and female mother sex cells—*Mikrogametozyt* and *Makrogamet*. In Table 20 (page 405) the term *solenoglyphae* is not provided for viperine snakes, as distinguished from the categories *aglyphae*, *opisthoglyphae*, and *proteroglyphae*; instead, the family name *Viperidae* is employed.

The text is unusually lucid; the illustrations are excellent, well chosen, and beautifully reproduced; the format is pleasing; and the binding is attractive. This book should not only serve its intended purpose for German students and practitioners of tropical medicine but, because of its concise, authoritative, up-to-date information, is recommended to readers who commonly consult English reference books.

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Pica. A survey of the historical literature as well as reports from the fields of veterinary medicine and anthropology, the present study of pica in young children, and a discussion of its pediatric and psychological implications. Marcia Cooper. Thomas, Springfield, 1957. 114 pp. \$3.75.

This is an interesting and well-organized account of pica (a Latin word, meaning "magpie," that refers, in this connection, to the eating of clay, plaster, ashes, and charcoal), which has been observed in many peoples in all parts of the world, from ancient times. The historical summary is particularly well done, as is a survey of the current incidence of pica. This may be greater than suspected. It occurs in groups suffering from dietary deficiencies and in people on whom heavy nutritional demands are made, such as young children and child-bearing women.

Laboratory studies on domestic and experimental animals show that animals seek, from dirt or other materials, that which may compensate for dietary defi-