

Book Reviews.

A Manual of Syphilis and the Venereal Diseases. By James Nivins Hyde, A.M., M.D., Professor of Skin and Venereal Diseases, Rush Medical College ; Dermatologist to the Presbyterian, Michael Reese, and Augustana Hospitals ; and Consulting Physician to the Hospital for Women and Children, Chicago. , And Frank H. Montgomery, M.D., Lecturer on Dermatology and Genito-Urinary Diseases, and Chief Assistant to the Clinic for Skin and Venereal Diseases, Rush Medical College ; Attending Physician for Skin and Venereal Diseases, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chicago. Publishers, W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

This is a book of 618 pages with 44 illustrations in the text, and 8 full page plates in colors and tints. It "has been prepared with the intent of meeting the special needs of the student and of the practitioner, rather than the expert." Containing "in compendious forms, and with detail, all practical facts connected with the study and the treatment of syphilis and the venereal diseases."

The subject of syphilis especially is one that cannot be too thoroughly-understood and carefully studied by the general practitioner, manifesting itself as it does at all ages, and in every organ of the body. Its symptoms and injurious results are extremely varied, and are often not recognized as to their true cause, unless the physician is thoroughly posted in regard to its immediate and far reaching possibilities. The numerous and varied methods and avenues by which the virus may gain admission and infect the organism need to be thoroughly appreciated by the physician, who exposes himself to such imminent danger in attending such cases, and cannot be too widely taught to the community around us. Hence a work like the one before us, which gives us in a lucid, terse style and in sufficient detail everything known to date, in regard to this subject and the other venereal diseases, such as gonorrhœa, which is said to destroy more lives annually than syphilis, should be heartily welcomed by the Profession, and extensively purchased and read. Two hundred and ninety-two pages are devoted to syphilis ; acquired syphilis is first dealt with. The chancre and everything pertaining to it is described, and its treatment fully given. In the evolution of syphilis, four types are given, and the stages usually described as primary, secondary, and tertiary are not accepted as representing the true chronological scheme of its course. Considerable space is devoted to syphilis of the skin. The syphilodermata being grouped under five headings, hereditary syphilis is then fully considered. Then follows an extended chapter on the treatment of this affection.

Mercury and iodine, in various forms, are recommended in numerous prescriptions, formulæ suitable for every variety of indication. In syphilis of the nervous system the hot bath, fumigation and the Turkish and Russian baths are to be avoided, being apt to produce congestion of the nervous centres. We see no reference to the Aachen method of treatment in Germany, or the benefits of treatment at the hot springs of Arkansas. An interesting chapter then follows on syphilis in relation to the family and society as to whom such patients should marry, duties of man and wife when infected, the regulation of public prostitutions, etc.

In the article on chancroid, a lengthy detailed list of symptoms are given, comparing them with chancre in parallel columns, and with Herpes Progenitalis and other disorders of the skin and mucous membranes, which will be found exceedingly useful for reference. The chapter on hypochondriasis is full of interest, and refers to a number of subjects such as impotency, the various sexual psychopathies, syphilophobia, etc., upon