

Library and Laboratory

A Manual of Physical Diagnosis.

Dr. Brefney Ralph O'Reilly, of Toronto, has issued *A Manual of Physical Diagnosis*, which we believe deserves to be carefully read, not only by the beginner in medicine, but by the experienced practitioner. One difficulty that we are glad to see has been overcome in the treatment of this subject is the lack of discrimination, usually found in works of a similar character, between essentials and non-essentials. Dr. O'Reilly has also advanced a step in laying special stress upon the importance of inspection and upon the desirability of regarding the patient as a personality, rather than a mere abstract physiological or pathological problem.—*A Manual of Physical Diagnosis*. By Brefney Ralph O'Reilly, M.D., C.M. (F.T.M.C. Toronto, M.R.C.S. England, L.R.C.P. London). *Demonstrator in Clinical Medicine and Pathology, University of Toronto; Assistant Physician to St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto; Physician to Toronto Hospital for Incurables. With six plates and forty-nine illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., 1911.*

The Encyclopædia of Municipal and Sanitary Engineering.

For this work, it is claimed, with perfect justice, so far as we are aware, that it is the first of its kind. The literature of the subject is voluminous, municipal and sanitary engineers being remarkably prolific in authorship; but the innumerable papers, reports, articles, pamphlets and other treatises they have produced make, in the aggregate, a chaotic and altogether unwieldy mass, in which a vast amount of exceedingly valuable information lies almost hopelessly buried. To Mr. W. H. Maxwell and Mr. J. T. Brown has occurred the happy idea of digesting this mass of materials; and the result appears in a handsome volume of moderate cost, in which the whole subject, in its various phases, is dealt with in the only really practical way—that is,

in the form of an encyclopædia, in which the alphabetical arrangement, while it necessarily involves a certain amount of repetition and over-lapping, is undoubtedly the most convenient method for reference. The editors, who have enlisted the co-operation of about forty contributors of unquestionable authority, have adopted the fair and wise course of affixing the initials of the authors to the more important articles—fair, because it is due to the respective writers to give them full credit for their work; wise, because the value of the information in any given instance can be more properly appreciated when one knows who is responsible for it—a point that is of special importance where systems or methods are sometimes in rivalry. The volume, so far as we have been able to test it, has been conceived and carried out in the right scientific spirit. For a one-volume encyclopædia, it is not over-bulky; and by the use of smaller type and smaller-scale diagrams, and by the more rigid condensation of the articles, some of which show a tendency to elaboration, as if the authors had not quite overcome the lecturer's habit of discursiveness, the book might easily have assumed still more modest proportions. In that case, however, it would inevitably have lost much of its present handsome appearance, to say nothing of its legibility; but as the subject continues to grow, such methods of compression as we have ventured to indicate will probably become necessary. We should have liked to see more attention given to what may be called the bibliography of the subject. Although many of the articles are, as we have said, unusually copious, one cannot reasonably look to an encyclopædia for absolutely exhaustive treatises under the various headings, but rather for concise summaries, with indications of the sources of other and fuller investigation. It may further be suggested that an analytical index would have been useful; for although the articles are, of course, in alphabetical order, it frequently occurs that one does not always know off-hand un-