

expended much thought on its preparation, and a vast amount of research and study to accumulate the required material. He takes the side of the physicochemical school of thinkers, and regards all life and energy as the result of chemical changes. He discusses in this work such problems as the difference between living and dead matter, the origin of life, the chemical basis of genus and species, the specificity of fertilization, artificial parthenogenesis, the formation of an organism from an egg, regeneration, determination of sex, mendelian heredity, animal instincts, the influence of environment, evolution, and death and dissolution. This statement from the preface will set forth the trend of the book: "It is generally admitted that the individual physiological processes, such as digestion, metabolism, the production of heat or of electricity, are of a purely physicochemical character; and it is also conceded that the functions of individual organs, such as the eye or the ear, are to be analysed from the viewpoint of the physicist."

To answer the question of how the parts of the organism are so adapted to each other as to give rise to a harmonious whole, the author advances many ingenious arguments. There are positions, namely, the one of some guiding force or principle which directs the processes; and the other that the unity of the organism is found in the egg which contains the embryo.

The work is a careful exposition of the author's views on evolution along physicochemical lines. It is along this course of study and research that he attempts to prove life, death, growth, energy, heredity, and qualities. To take an example as to how the author works out this physicochemical theory let us look at what he says on environment. Here he discards the ordinary view of environment as the surroundings of the whole body; and reduces it to the environment of the cell; and here comes in the theory of the chemical processes that influence the growth, life and death of the organism.

We can speak in high terms of this work.

MEDICAL DISEASES OF THE WAR.

By Arthur F. Hurst, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Temporary Major, R.A.M.C., Physician and Neurologist to Guy's Hospital; Neurologist to the 3rd Southern General Hospital; lately Member of the Medical Advisory Committee, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and Consulting Physician to the Salonica Army. London; Edward Arnold, 1917. Price, 6 shillings, net.

The topics discussed in this book are functional nervous troubles, dysentery of the various types, hepatitis and hepatic abscess, trench