

for a good deal. The idea of any one, in the present day enlightenment, and "in spite of the wide acceptance of the *mechanical theory of life*," "when this theory has won its greatest triumphs," who presupposes the therapeutic activity of God in all cases as a self-evident fact, is almost too much. He looks upon it as absurd that any one should still teach "that the existence of nature, independent of God, is not admissible," and goes on to mix up Christian belief that has stood the test of ages with the nefarious practices of those vampires who still prey upon the credulity of the public, under the cloak of religion, for the purposes simply and solely of gain. The mechanical theory of life, however, does not seem to have done much so far, as the writer finds it interesting to note, even now, that people are so easily misled; "when the advances of physical science have enlightened to some extent even the most unintellectual."

The latter part of the book is given up to astrology, with a short chapter on Medical Superstition and Insanity.

A. J. J.

*The Development of the Human Body.* A Manual of Human Embryology. By J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICH, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Michigan. Second Edition, revised and enlarged, with 272 illustrations. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St. 1904. Price \$3.00.

The study of embryology is justly regarded as being very important. It alone gives the clue to the intelligent comprehension of the anatomy of the adult body. This work presents a concise statement of the various processes of development, and is well adapted to aid the student in his efforts to grasp the leading facts connected with embryology.

The popularity of Professor McMurrich's book is shown by the fact that a second edition is required so soon.

A. E.

*The Ophthalmic Year-Book.* A digest of the literature of ophthalmology, with index of publications for the year 1903. By EDWARD JACKSON, A.M., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Diseases of the Eye in the Philadelphia Polyclinic. Denver: The Herrick Book and Stationery Company. 1904.

This work appeals only to the specialist, but in it is to be found what cannot be had in any other single publication. No attempt is made to abstract all the articles which may have appeared, but simply the important things in sufficient detail to make them applicable in practice. Oculists owe Dr. Jackson a debt of gratitude for undertaking this work and carrying it out so thoroughly.

M.