

BOOK REVIEWS.

A MANUAL OF CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS BY MEANS OF MICROSCOPIC AND CHEMICAL METHODS.

By Charles E. Simon, M. D., Late Assistant Resident Physician John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Fellow of the American Academy of Medicine. Third Edition. Lea Bros. & Co., Philadelphia, 1900.

The chemical considerations in this work add largely to its interest and value, giving the student a much clearer insight into the substances with which he is dealing. A brief description, chemical and microscopic, of the various fluids of the body in the normal state, precedes in each case that of the pathological, a comparison most essential in such a work.

The blood is examined and described from every side. Each element is discussed with great accuracy, not only from its microscopic appearance, but with its chemical affinities and staining peculiarities, the preparation of stains and their application are clear. The section devoted to the secretions of the mouth contains many points of interest.

That on "Examination of Stomach Contents" is full of instructive points. Nearly all known tests for the different elements are given and commented upon, not from what others say, but from the author's own experiences. The tests and reactions are clearly described and, what is most important, directions for the preparation of reagents.

The clinical significance and mode of formation of pathological elements are tersely discussed. The study of faeces, normal and pathological, occupies some fifty pages, all points being dealt with, from the number of stools daily to the bacteriology of the contents. Intestinal parasites, gall stones and their analysis. chemical tests for blood coloring matter, albumen, peptones, bile pigment, &c., are all considered, as well as the special study of the alvine discharges in different diseases. Sputum is discussed from the microscopic and chemical aspects.

The chemical examination of urine is unusually deep for a text book of this character. The origin, mode of formation, reactions and clinical significance of the bodies found in it are described at great length. The simpler methods of examination are given, and possible errors in the reactions emphasized, while for those wishing to enter more deeply into the matter, more complex and exact methods are described. The organized elements are well illustrated.

There are short sections on semen, vaginal discharges, exudates and transudates, cyst contents and milk. In these the chemical as well as the microscopical characters are considered.

The author is evidently a strong advocate of Lumbar puncture. He cites a long list of investigations with results, and anticipates a bright future for the operation, for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.