

Merely to list the scope of Professor Highet's writings in *A Clerk of Oxenford*, however, is unfair. For one thing, he writes in the intimate style of the essayist; he is witty, urbane, and has an eye for the unusual. One essay, for example, deals with Lord Byron's perpetual struggle with obesity. In another there is delicious irony when the writing of J. M. Thompson, one of the great living authorities on Napoleon and his period, is contrasted with Désirée—Annemarie Selinko's chatty historical novel set in the same era.

All of this does not mean that the essays in the book are above criticism. Professor Highet has indeed come from the classroom, but in doing so he has tended to underestimate his audience and to pitch his talks down a shade too far. In addition, some of his judgments and many of his statements may be questioned. He definitely undervalues Yeats as a poet, and dismisses Samuel Butler as "that horrible little worm". Nevertheless, whatever Professor Highet's opinions may be, they are at least direct, and stimulate the reader to re-examine his own views on each subject under discussion. Whether one is looking for the ludicrous—Mrs. Amanda McKittrick Ros who describes her hero's eyes as "glittering jet revolvers" is a good illustration—or for the scholarly, this book contains both. It should not be missed.

W.R.

LEGAL MEDICINE, edited by R. B. H. Gradwohl. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, U.S.A. and McInish and Company, Ltd., Toronto, Canada. 222 Illustrations. Indexed. Pp. 1093. \$20.

The field of legal medicine has increased so rapidly in recent years that it is manifestly impossible for any one individual to be an expert in all its branches. For this reason, every person interested in the subject, will welcome this book which brings together "the collected thoughts of so many outstanding authorities".

Chapter I, by Sir Sidney Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor of Forensic Medicine, Edinburgh University, Scotland, deals with the history of legal medicine. The next 15 chapters discuss topics of special interest to pathologists and physicians who must carry out autopsies, and so forth, and give evidence in the Courts. Chapter 17 deals with problems of

skeletal identification and chapter 18 contains a very thorough discussion on the use of dental evidence in identification and criminology. Techniques for the examination of hairs and fibres are described by Dr. W. E. Evans, pathologist of Charing Cross Hospital, London. Three chapters are devoted to the identification of blood-stains, blood grouping tests and paternity proceedings. The scientific aspects of blood-stain identification and grouping are adequately treated by Dr. Gradwohl; the legal phases of the subject are thoroughly discussed by Mr. S. B. Schatkin. The Walker acid phosphates test for seminal fluid is described by Dr. Gradwohl in a chapter on the examination of seminal stains.

Mr. Sidney Kaye and Dr. Leo Goldbaum, well-known for their contributions to the literature on toxicology, have written the chapter on this extremely important subject. "The chapter is not intended to represent a complete treatise on the subject of toxicology; rather, it is a working outline." Considerable emphasis is placed on ultraviolet absorption spectroscopy as a means of identifying and differentiating barbiturates, volatiles and alkaloids. No mention is made of the use of X-ray diffraction and infra-red spectroscopy; space might have been allotted for a more complete discussion of crystallographic methods of identification.

A very excellent discussion on the medico-legal aspects of alcohol intoxication is contributed by Dr. C. W. Muehlberger. Other topics discussed are absorption, forensic psychiatry, narcoanalysis, lie detection, the expert witness and laboratory administration.

This book brings together under one cover the experience of 30 authorities in various branches of legal medicine. Some readers might wish their particular field of interest had been given more space. However, for those who desire to study any particular topic in more detail, a list of pertinent references is included at the end of each chapter.

The book is profusely illustrated and the publishers have made an excellent job of the printing and binding. Members of the medical and legal professions, pathologists, toxicologists, and law-enforcement officers will find this up-to-date text-book a required addition to their libraries. B.B.C.