

BOOK REVIEWS.

TIGERSTEDT'S PHYSIOLOGY, translated by Dr. J. R. Murlin, Assistant Professor of Physiology in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York.

Taken as a whole, this is one of the best text-books which we have seen for second year medical students.

It is the practice, in some colleges, for the professor to recommend a comparatively large text-book in physiology to first year students, with the expectation that such a book will cover the subject for the two sessions during which physiology is studied. In our opinion this is a mistake. A first year student soon gets hopelessly lost in the multitude of facts which are discussed in a large text-book. A good teacher will never start his students at this extensive subject by putting a treatise in their hands. He will, instead, recommend a book which gives the beginner a bird's eye view of physiology, and when he has mastered such a book or attended a first year's course of lectures on elementary physiology, the student is ready in his second year to attack such a book as Tigerstedt's. Even in a second year's course, great good judgment is necessary in deciding what shall be included and what shall be excluded. Because general physiology is a very extensive subject, covering as it does the whole range of animal life, from the protozoa up to man. Some of this general physiology the medical student must have, as a foundation for the physiology of the human being. To fix the limits of this general physiology is a most difficult task. If made too extensive, a heavy burden is laid upon the student; if omitted altogether, he gets a distorted view of what is sometimes called human physiology.

Moreover, a huge mass of facts in practical medicine, in experimental pathology and in pharmacology have been accumulated in recent years and have a distinct significance in the interpretation of normal processes going on in the animal body. These might properly enough be included in a treatise on physiology. But to do so in a student's text-book would make it so bulky as to be almost useless to the average student.