

The Internal Secretions and the Principles of Medicine. By Charles E. de M. Sajous, M.D., Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Member of the American Philosophical Society; The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, etc.; Knight of the Legion of Honour and Officer of the Academy of France; Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium; formerly Professor of Laryngology and Dean of the Faculty of the Medico Chirurgical College, etc., etc. Volume first, with forty-two illustrations. F. A. Davis Company, publishers, Philadelphia, 1903.

This massive volume of some eight hundred pages, represents an immense amount of labour and thought on a somewhat obscure subject. Through observation and experiments by himself and others, Dr. Sajous has arrived at some remarkable conclusions and advanced theories, which, if confirmed by further observation, will shed new light on some of the most abstruse physiological phenomena of the human organism. We can only, in the brief review of this book, give an outline of a few of the ideas advanced by Dr. Sajous and if our readers are struck by their novelty and interested, advise them to carefully peruse the book. The basal theme is the action of the adrenal secretion on various parts of the body. The adrenals were the key to tissue respiration, and to the functions of all ductless glands; and the heart, lungs, liver, etc., are subsidiary structures under the mandates of the ductless glands. Among the ideas advanced are the following, from which important conclusions are drawn. Thus: the red-blood corpuscles are said to be secondary factors as carriers of oxygen and the oxidizing substance is an oxygen-laden adrenal secretion dissolved in the blood plasma. The contraction of the heart depended on the presence of the adrenal secretion, it was found in various tissues, as myosinogen in muscle, fibronogen in the blood, myelin in nerve cells.

The anterior pituitary body he claims to be the most important organ in the body, as the governing centre of the adrenals, being connected by the splanchnic and sympathetic nerves. A patient's vital resistance depended on the functional efficiency of this body which caused increased or diminished adrenal secretion and thus led to increased metabolism and activity or lowered vitality. Again, the pituitary body was sustained in functional activity by the secretion of the thyroid gland. If overdone ex-ophthalmic goitre resulted, if defective, myxoedema.

The thyroid gland, anterior pituitary and adrenals being functionally united constitute the adrenal system. He found that poisons, toxins, remedies, etc., acted the same way as thyoidine and produced their effects by leading to over-activity or insufficiency of the adrenal system. Lowered vitality was the effect or cause of