

tion; Vascular Glands and Nutrition—a separate chapter being devoted to each. It will thus be seen that Professor Valentin has not followed the custom of eminent Physiologists of our day, who, profiting by the recent advances in Histology and Morphology, fitly begin their writings with more or less of Physiological Anatomy, proceeding from which they gradually build up their subject, describing the functions after the organs, and these after the elementary tissues of their composition.—Observant of these conditions, Jackson, Carpenter, Todd and Bowman have originated arrangements of a truly scientific character, although in doing so they incurred the risk of being thought negligent or intolerant of antiquated usages—a risk which Valentin has certainly escaped.

The chapters above specified are, upon the whole, clearly written, and well deserving of a careful perusal. The subjects broached for the most part are treated at length, and with ability. Now and then, however, undue importance is given to trite and trivial matters, while frequently there is too much of the chemico-physical, and too little of the truly physiological. Many important subjects are entirely omitted. We hope to meet them in the second part, when it appears, although undoubtedly their proper places have already been scanned. Thus, in the account of the heart, nothing is stated regarding its impulse or sounds, although in treatises such as this, they have hitherto received marked attention. At the present day great uncertainty prevails as to the exact mode of their production, and the precise information they convey, which is the more important from the close bearing they have on the value of physical signs, as exponents of cardiac disease. No theory of the occurrences of health, we take it, can be correct which will not be sustained or proved by its applicability to explain the occurrences of disease. We know there are some, wise in their own conceits, who cozen themselves into the belief of an infallible familiarity with, and appreciation of, every bruit or sound that they hear; while there are others who profess to possess a refinement of such astonishing degree, that they can with absolute certainty mark even the accentuation of a murmur; but, until the physiological void which now exists be filled up with fresh observation, and secured from regaping by sound facts, we shall not dare copy either their dogmatism or dandyism. Under secretion we find no information concerning certain unequivocal secretions, as milk and semen, while other vascular products, as synovial and serous fluids are treated of, although, unlike the former, they are substances which can be easily separated from the blood, since they pre-exist in it, are not newly produced from the proximate components of the blood by a vital metamorphosis, and are not therefore according to Muller secretions.

While discussing digestion, the author observes that “so far as we know, the adult may live three weeks without any food,” and possibly