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Book Reviews

Textbook of Clinical Parasitology, by DAVID L. BELDING, M.D., Professor of Bacteriology and Experimental Pathology, Boston University School of Medicine, Member of staff of Evans Memorial, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals. D. Appleton-Century Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., 1942. xxi + 888 pp., 279 figs., 44 tables and 4 colored plates. Price, \$8.50.

Knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of parasitological infections is very important and must receive more attention in the present conflict, since many theaters of war are located in the tropical and subtropical countries. This book is intended for medical students, physicians, public health officials, medical personnel in the armed forces, laboratory workers and biologists. The book is written from the standpoint of one responsible for teaching the subject, and to accomplish this end, numerous illustrations are used throughout the text. Many of the illustrations are diagrammatic and convey a fairly complete picture of the topic under discussion, independent of the text. Numerous keys are also incorporated in the text which should prove helpful to those who have need for a ready reference book. In place of the more popular terms, the author employs a few expressions which are little used to-day, such as alexin-fixation instead of complement-fixation. Nearly every chapter is accompanied by a few selected references, which should enhance the usefulness of the book for those desiring more than an elementary knowledge of the subject. The book, as the title implies, is a textbook and in this respect it fulfills its purpose.—H. E. Morton.

Synopsis of Materia Medica, Toxicology and Pharmacology, by FORREST RAMON DAVISON, Medical Department, The Upjohn Company. Second edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1942. 695 pp., 45 figs., 12.5 x 19.5 cm. Price, \$5.75.

The writing of a synopsis in any field entails the careful selection of material to be included. Dr. Davison has not always been wise in his choice of subject matter, for at the expense of much valuable information, such drugs of secondary importance as conium, the sulfone hypnotics, and new agents which are almost untried are discussed, while many important facts are omitted. For example, there is nothing stated about the mode of destruction of epinephrine, the value of the short and intermediate acting barbiturates in cocaine poisoning, nor the more modern treatment of acute and chronic alcoholism. It is pleasing, however, to see the inclusion of such modern findings as the use of dihydrotachysterol to replace parathormone.

This synopsis is divided into two parts. Part I, comprising 95 pages, is given over to the consideration of fundamental principles of pharmacology, materia medica and prescription writing. Pharmacists will be pleased to see in this book many helpful suggestions regarding prescription writing, made available in such a way as to encourage the physician to prescribe in a simple and straightforward manner. Particularly noteworthy is the section on vehicles in which the most useful properties of coloring and flavoring agents are tabulated and the basic principles of disguising medicaments are outlined.