

bismuth, boron, phosphorus and silicon are considered as *monovalent* elements, aluminium is bivalent (!), while vanadium with an atomic weight of 51.2 has an equivalent weight of 68.5 (!!). Inaccurate values determined by French experimenters are frequently given to the exclusion of greatly more accurate ones by non-Gallic scientists. As a scientific compilation, in the proper sense of the term *scientific*, it is discreditable to the authors and to France.

JOSEPH W. RICHARDS.

A System of Diet and Dietetics. Edited by G. A. SUTHERLAND. London, 1908. xiii + 893 pp. Price, \$7.50.

This volume, which is one of the series entitled Oxford Medical Publications, contains a number of papers by different authors on food and nutrition in health and disease. Among the papers of special interest to students of nutrition may be mentioned: "A Discussion of General Principles," by Sir Lauder Brunton; "The Evolution of Man's Diet," by Dr. Harry Campbell; "The Physiology of Digestion, Absorption, and Nutrition," by Dr. E. I. Spriggs; "The Results of Experimental Work on Diet," by Dr. E. I. Spriggs; "Diet Cures and Special Diets," by Dr. Edmund Cautley; "Patent and Proprietary Foods," by Dr. Edmund Cautley; "Diet in Old Age," by Dr. Harry Campbell; and "The Feeding of Infants and Children in Health," by Dr. G. A. Sutherland.

In the chapter on the Evolution of Man's Diet, the epochs which the discussion treats are: The simian period, the homo-simian period, the early hunting period, the pre-cibicultural cookery period, and the cibicultural period, or the period in which man has depended upon cultivated crops for food. Dr. Campbell has brought together a large amount of information not generally accessible and has rendered a service to all students of dietetics by the clear and systematic way in which the evolution of man's diet is discussed.

All the sections are of decided interest and value as they represent the views of men of wide experience in the subjects treated as well as summaries of data fundamental to adequate discussion of such questions. The chapters on diet in disease are of unusual interest to the medical practitioner. As stated in the editor's preface "this book is not a reflection of the fancies of the public on the subject of their food, or of the methods of the individual who believes in an infallible system for dieting of his patients. Until our knowledge of physiology is more perfect than at present the scientific basis of dietetics must be an unstable one. Nevertheless patients must be dieted, and the physician must be guided by the teaching of history, by experimental physiology, and by clinical experience in the proper regulation of their diet. All that has been attempted in this book is to set down the principles and practice of men who have had special experience in the subjects on which they write."

C. F. LANGWORTHY.