

Book Reviews

Atlas of Pathology of Tropical Diseases, by Colonel J. E. Ash, M.C., U.S.A., Director, and Sophie Spitz, M.D., C.S., A.U.S., Pathologist, The Army Institute of Pathology, Army Medical Museum. 350 pp. 941 ill. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1945.

SINCE THE OUTBREAK of the war, numerous textbooks dealing with tropical diseases, as well as several revised editions of the older texts, have appeared on the market. In all of them, the epidemiology, etiology, and clinical aspects of these diseases have been treated in great detail, while the pathology has been either casually treated or entirely overlooked. The emphasis of this book by Ash and Spitz is on the pathological features of the various tropical diseases, not those obscure tropical maladies, which one rarely meets, but those that have proved of military importance during the war and will doubtlessly be of importance to the physician in civilian life as well.

The treatment of the pathology is concise and lucid and provides the essential gross and histological pictures of the various diseases. Many of the outstanding points are clearly illustrated by excellent and original photographs, some of which are in color. The book is also invaluable as a source for the essential facts dealing with the epidemiology, etiology, and the clinical and laboratory features of the diseases. The helminthic life cycles are made clear by excellent charts. The book is not hampered by verbosity or excessive unnecessary detail which makes for easy and instructive reading. "Atlas of Pathology of Tropical Diseases" should find its place on the bookshelves not only of those interested in pathology or tropical diseases but on those of every physician.

S. C. T.

A Manual of Tropical Medicine, prepared under the auspices of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council, by Colonel Thomas T. Mackie, M.C., A.U.S., Executive Officer, Tropical and Military Medicine, Chief, Division of Parasitology, Army Medical School; Major George W. Hunter, III, S.C., A.U.S., Division of Parasitology, Army Medical School; Captain C. Brooke Worth, M.C., A.U.S., Division of Parasitology, Army Medical School. 727 pp. 284 ill. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1945.

THIS MANUAL fills the need of a clear, concise, and authoritative book on this subject for the use of the general practitioner and of the medical student. It is well presented in eleven sections, which are classified according to the etiological agents of disease. The book also contains a section on laboratory diagnostic methods.

The descriptive material is accurate and good and excellently illustrated. However, the manual does not have a bibliography where the student or general practitioner may complete his knowledge, if so desired, of the condition described. The book can be easily recommended.

P. M. O.

Vida Americana, by Dr. Silvio Dessy, Director, Institute of Biology of Argentine. 254 pp. Buenos Aires: C. Vergara, Editor, 1944.

"MI VIDA AMERICANA" (My Life in America) tells the story of the vigorous life of one man who gave himself, wholeheartedly and disinterestedly, to the pursuit of science in an effort to promote the welfare of the Argentine community in which he lived. It is the life story of Dr. Silvio Dessy, who sets us in on the innumerable interesting episodes of his very full life, all of which he narrates in a most entertaining style.

A preface, written by Professor Irene Pizarro and Jorge Landi Dessy, sums up the European phase of Dr. Dessy's days. The latter was born at Dogo, Italy, in 1869, the son of poor parents. Even as a very young boy, Dessy showed a leaning towards the natural sciences and, when not at school, spent long hours studying the entomological collections in the laboratory of his teacher, Professor Carazzi, in Spezia. At 18, young Dessy spoke French, English, and German. It was at this time that he transferred to the University of Turin to commence his medical studies. When he had completed them, Dessy had the honor of being appointed assistant to Professor Guido Banti, which post he occupied for four years as a means of furthering his training in medicine.

These studies were all for a purpose; young Dessy had the idea fixed in his mind to leave the homeland and go to some newly opened country of South America, where the field might prove more fertile for his many plans. Luck was with him for, in 1898, he won a contest by which he became assistant to Dr. Mercanti, who had been appointed recently as Director of the Institute of Experimental Hygiene, at La Plata, Argentine. Here Dessy worked in a very favorable environment, becoming director of the Institute several years after.

In 1900 Dessy left for Buenos Aires, charged with the mission of opening a central laboratory in the "Hospital de Clínicas," attached to the Faculty of Medicine. The immense amount of material coming to the hospital enabled him, in 1903, to inaugurate the "Revista Suramericana de Ciencias Médicas."

However, the purpose that drove him on had not yet been accomplished—that of founding a research center where Argentine scientists might work and study. After abandoning the direction of the La Plata Institute and overcoming innumerable obstacles in his way, Dessy opened up, with the

aid of Argentine colleagues and friends, his dreamed-of Institute of Biology. Though of modest beginnings, the Institute soon became well-known throughout Argentine and the outside world for the notable contributions of its members as well as for the pharmaceutical products studied and compounded there. Again under Dr. Dessy's direction, there appeared another review, "Revista Sudamericana de Endocrinología, Immunología y Quimioterapia," sponsored by that Institute.

Dr. Dessy had numberless students under him, many of them now prominent members of the world of science of Latin America.