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## REVIEWS

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**A History of Tropical Medicine.** By H. Harold Scott. (Edward Arnold & Co., London), 1939. Royal 8vo. Pp. xiv + 1119 with 13 plates. Two volumes. Price 50sh.

*A History of Tropical Medicine* by H. H. Scott, is one of those monumental works which every medical college library and some of the private libraries ought to possess. When Dr. Scott, with his unparalleled facilities and wide knowledge, takes the responsibility to write a book on this subject, the medical public and also the general reading public naturally expect the work to be both comprehensive and authoritative. Even if all these considerations failed to raise great expectations, the mention of the additional fact that the book is based on Fitz-Patrick lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians, London, in 1937-38, lends it the seal and dignity of that ancient and learned body and ensures almost universal and instantaneous acclamation.

In a short preface, the author records his mingled feelings of pride and diffidence with which he received an invitation to deliver Fitz-Patrick lectures. He remembered "with trembling solicitude, the high level and excellence of the lectures of his predecessors in office". "With what joy, what interest, what wonder we read, nearly a quarter of a century ago, Rivers's 'Medicine, Magic and Religion'; how we marvelled at the erudition and research displayed by Sir Clifford Allbutt in 'Greek Medicine in Rome'; Raymond Crawford's 'Pestilence and Plague in Arts and Literature' and there are many others. We long to emulate these monuments of industry, these works which, if nothing else of their remained, would suffice to keep green the memories of their authors and we draw back afraid. In every truth, there were giants in those days." He had no difficulty in the choice of the subject. But he trembled at the magnitude of the task before him. "Here and there, scattered in medical works dealing with diseases in the tropics, we find a few notes on the history of these diseases but, speaking in any sense other than the narrowest, there is no history of the rise

and development of tropical medicine. In the case of the so-called Tropical Medicine, the difficulty has been the greater because, it has necessitated tracing back, in some instances, to times of savagery, the earliest available records and to legends prior to record. In others, the first traces had to be sought in articles, in books, in references in foreign languages, works attainable with much difficulty and often only in garbled or mutilated copies, the originals of which had been lost." The author then refers to another difficulty, namely, that we have no definition of the term 'Tropical Medicine'.

Having mentioned the preliminary difficulties, he proceeds to explain his aim in the lectures (the basis of the book), "It is not our aim to give a history of diseases of warm climates but a history of tropical medicine in the generally accepted connotation of the term. The former—history of diseases in warm climates—would necessitate going over ground already well covered, discussion of malaria, plague and perhaps other diseases from the dawn of history, but the latter, the subject of these lectures is the history, that is, *the rise and development of tropical medicine*. Its starting point can only be that time when reason began to throw its light upon and illumine the darkness of empiricism, when people began to theorise regarding causation of disease, to consider the problems scientifically and that rarely takes us back more than hundred to a hundred and fifty years give due meed of praise to Captain Cook for preserving his crews from scurvy, will in no way detract honour from the work of Lind. In an analogous way, army medical officers saw much of tropical diseases in expeditions abroad in India and in Colonies and some of them wrote many painstaking works on the barracks, on food, on the care of the soldiers' health, apart from the learned disquisitions on the diseases they encountered." . . . "In the course of this study, we shall take occasion to note the reciprocal effects of history and large movements and engineering undertakings on the one hand, and tropical diseases on the other, the medical aspects of the difficulties of construction of the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal and how they were

overcome, the effects of the African slave-trade in spreading disease and the conditions under which the trade was carried on."

The book is bound in two volumes, apparently for the sake of convenience in handling, rather than as a mode of arrangement of the subject-matter. The contents are distributed under 23 chapters of widely varying lengths or number of pages, the longest being Chapter VII on Yellow fever covering about 160 pages and the shortest being 20th Chapter on Suez Canal in nine pages. The first four chapters deal, in general terms, with the medical conditions in the navy, army, Africa, India, Australia, in the early days of colonization. Chapters V and XVIII describe, with varying degrees of detail and range of knowledge, some of the important diseases commonly labelled as tropical diseases. Malaria, Blackwater fever, Yellow fever, Trypanosomiasis, Leishmaniasis, Leprosy, Cholera, Plague, Undulant fever, Relapsing fever, Melioidosis, Dengue, Amœbic dysentery and Hepatitis and Ankylostomiasis form the order in which they are dealt with. Chapter XIX is entitled Tropical diseases connected with food and is subdivided into two groups. The first is called Avitaminoses and includes Beriberi, Epidemic Dropsy, Pellagra and Scurvy. The second sub-group deals with poisonous foods (ginger paralysis, etc.). The next three chapters (Chapter XX, XXI and XXII) are of a general nature devoted respectively to the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal and the Slave-trade. The last chapter (XXIII) containing brief biographies of Jacobus Bontius, David Bruce, James Carroll, Oswaldo Cruz, John Everett Dutton, Juan Carlos Finlay, Garcia de Orta, William Crawford Gorgas, Jesse. W. Lazear, William Leishman, James Lind, Patrick Manson, Hideyo Noguchi, Walter Read, Ronald Ross.

D. V. S. REDDY.

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**Plant Science Formulae.** By R. C. McLean and W. R. Ivimey Cook. (MacMillan & Co., London), 1941. Pp. vii + 203. Price 7sh. 6d. net.

This is a useful little volume which most laboratory workers in botany will find handy on their bench. For its size a book of this nature can scarcely be made anything like exhaustive but on the whole the selection of matter has been carried out judiciously, and the reader will be grateful for

many practical hints not easily found in books on botanical technique.

As a university teacher, the reviewer particularly welcomes the suggestion (p. 141) that the devising and constructing of laboratory equipment should form a part of the training of all postgraduate students. The plea for a well-equipped workshop attached to every botanical laboratory is also fully justified.

B. SAHNI.

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**Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Commemoration Volume.** Edited by Drs. V. S. Puri and P. L. Kapur. (Indian Chemical Society, Lahore Branch), 1941. Pp. vi + 112. Price Rs. 2-8-0 or 5sh.

The Commemoration Volume published by the Indian Chemical Society, Lahore Branch, and presented to Sir S. S. Bhatnagar on the occasion of his appointment as Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, is a fitting tribute to the many services of Sir Shanti Swarup to the cause of Chemistry in the Punjab. This volume is the outcome of the high esteem in which he is held by the chemists of the Punjab. The Chemistry Laboratory of the Panjab University, the standing monument to the many achievements of Sir Shanti Swarup in the field of chemical research, has produced a band of workers who would add lustre to his inspiring leadership. This volume gives but a glimpse of the numerous investigations in the domain of chemistry that were directly or indirectly inspired by him.

In this volume there are 12 original papers and 2 reviews. The latter are on the importance of Magnetic Measurements for Chemical Problems and the Recent Applications of Colloid Chemistry to Textile Problems. Both these reviews summarise and bring into prominence the important work done in the Chemical Laboratories on these subjects. Other papers cover a wide range of subjects including Soils, Biochemistry and Corrosion Problems. The volume opens with a paper on Adsorption by Precipitated Hydroxides of Copper and Bismuth by Yajnik and his co-workers. It is followed by a paper on the Influence of Magnetic Fields on Adsorption. This is a subject on which Sir Shanti Swarup has done monumental work. The paper contains several references to the previous work