

This small volume is a valuable monograph on the history and present status of protective inoculation against smallpox. It is intended particularly as a document in opposition to the so-called anti-vaccinationists, who in Germany are trying to secure the repeal of the compulsory vaccination law of 1874, which is still in effect. The two concluding chapters present the arguments of these misguided enthusiasts and their most efficient means of refutation. The book is entertainingly written and presents admirably the case in favor of general vaccination. It should be a useful agent in the defense of public safety against the designs of zealous alleged reforms.

*The Diseases of the Sixth Decade.* By DR. ARTHUR LECLERCQ. Volume I: Arteriosclerosis. Volume III: Diabetes. Paris: Octave Doin & Son. 1910-11.

The volumes of this series aim to sum up the common pathologic processes typically characteristic of the years from fifty to sixty in human life. The first volume deals with the clinical evolution and the treatment of arteriosclerosis, that type of degenerative disease which is the essential cause of old age. The third volume, in three parts, presents first a general consideration of glycosuria and of exophthalmic goitre; second, a study of diabetes mellitus; and third, a more particular investigation of the relations between metabolism and Graves' disease. The books are written with all the clearness and facility of the Gallic language and science. They are attractive to the student, but hardly likely to interest the busy American general practitioner.

*Structure and Functions of the Body.* By ANNETTE FISKE, A.M., graduate of the Waltham Training School for Nurses. Illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1911.

This volume, as stated in its subtitle, is intended as "a handbook of anatomy and physiology for nurses and others desiring a practical knowledge of the subject." It is uniform with the other textbooks for nurses published by the same firm, and presents in more abbreviated form the facts of anatomy and physiology treated at length in the volume by Dr. Lewis in this series. It has the particular merit of frequent reference to the practical application of these facts, thereby serving to correlate the nurse's knowledge with her work in the observation and care of the sick.

*Three Contributions to the Sexual Theory.* By PROF. SIGMUND FREUD, LL.D. Authorized translation by A. A. BRILL, Ph.B., M.D. With introduction by JAMES J. PUTNAM, M.D. Octavo. Pp. x, 91. New York: The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Co. 1910.

"The three essays contained in this little volume are regarded as occupying an important position in the exposition of the teachings of Freud, and the translator has succeeded in rendering the difficult and somewhat involved German of the original into reasonably clear English, thereby

rendering them accessible to those interested in the subject who are unable to read them in the original. These essays deal with sexual aberrations, infantile sexuality and the transformation of puberty. The disposition to perversion Freud regards as the primitive and universal disposition of the human sexual impulse, from which normal sexual behavior develops. Every fixed aberration from the normal sexual life is a fragment of inhibited development and infantilism, and also a dissociation of normal development. Sexual excitation is common in the child, often manifesting itself as masturbation. At puberty other sources of sexual feeling are subordinated to the primacy of the genital zones, and the selection of the object for such feeling becomes more pronounced. Character is built up from the material of sexual excitations, and anomalies in the development in the sexual sphere and disturbances in such development in the way of repression or of sublimation of the instinct are responsible for most, if not all, of the psychoneurotic conditions. That the sexual impulse is one of the fundamental impulses in nature has been recognized by all but the epicene centuries before Freud departed from the paths of science to follow the guidance of psycho-analysis. Like a true mystic, he detects a sexual symbolism in every act and every object, so that it is a simple matter, in view of the admitted prominence of the sexual impulse, to find a sexual significance in every event of human life. When we recall the vagueness and suggestibility of the average psychoneurotic patient, the utter lack of ability to note symptoms accurately or to report them uninfluenced by the investigator's questioning, we cannot help feeling, as we study the interminable "fragments" of the history of the cases, that, in many instances, as Löwenfeld long ago demonstrated, Freud and his followers have either directly suggested the sexual ideas or, by their extravagant interpretations, have read sexuality into actions and thoughts where it never existed. The doctrines which Freud preaches, with his insistence upon symbolic interpretation and his own frequent alterations of his views, are characteristic of the visionary, unscientific utterances of the mystics of all sorts, and it is not remarkable that they have been rejected by men like Strümpell, Oppenheim, and the great majority of scientific neurologists. We do not mean to deny that many psychoneurotic conditions have a sexual basis, but we cannot admit that all cases have such a basis or that all actions, thoughts and emotions are liable to a sexual interpretation any more than that they can all be interpreted on the basis of that other primal instinct — hunger. Even when sexual ideas are prominent, it is often wiser, as a therapeutic measure, to divert the mind from them rather than to develop them and magnify them. We cannot overlook the very grave dangers that may arise in the employment of Freud's methods in the investigation of morbid mental states, nor can we commend the present volume, in which Freud's dominating ideas find expression in pages that can be fairly compared with Justine or the Scatological Riks of All Nations."