of it to all physicians, and to all interested in public health from any standpoint whatsoever, especially health officers, whose duties bring them into constant contact with the opium problem.

M. P. Ravenel

Handbuch der Tropenkrankheiten—By von Prof. Dr. C. Mense, Band III. Malaria und Schwarzwasserfieber by Prof. Dr. Hans Ziemann, Ed. 3. Leipzig: Verlag von Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1924. xiv + 592 pp., 6 pls., 139 figs. in text. Price, Rm. 40.

Because of the marked increase in the incidence of malaria in European countries during and since the war this volume acquires a significance far beyond that of other tropical medical subjects. The author is widely known as a specialist on this subject and broadened his contacts with the disease in Syria and Palestine during the war and after its close in the malaria clinics in Berlin. The book reflects the intimate contact of the malarial expert and practitioner with this disease and its perplexing problems. The sections dealing with mosquitoes, epidemiology, therapy, provocative methods, quinine, prophylaxis, malaria in the war, and black-water fever have been extensively revised in the light of the latest findings. Because of its protean complications malaria presents, like syphilis, wide ramifications into modern medical problems.

Of especial interest to workers in public health and preventive medicine are the chapters upon mosquitoes, epidemiology, relations to geographical and climatic conditions, to sex, constitution, temperament, employment and age, to the different races, to natives in the malarial districts, to birth rate, morbidity and mortality in malarial districts, and upon the subject of immunity. Laboratory workers will find the chapter on the malarial parasites very well organized, well illustrated, and the differential features of the species admirably and lucidly set forth. Field workers will find a concise account of malarial and non-malarial Anopheline mosquitoes and a concise account of their general biology with special references to detection, preventive measures and the epidemiological analysis of diverse malarial phenomena.

It is of interest to note that the discrepancies sometimes found between the abundance of Anopheline vectors and the malarial index are to be solved by ecological analysis of factors such as access by the mosquitoes to cattle, by distribution and density of certain groups in the local population, as well as by immunities alike in man and in female mosquitoes. Epidemics and pandemics have relations to many factors, such as absence of endemic malaria, lowered resistance among elements of the population accompanied by bad economic conditions, hookworm infection, abundance of infectious mosquitoes, and climatic factors. The causes of the reduction of malaria with the advance of culture are obscure. Drainage, restriction of breeding places, access to cattle and other mammals for blood, and the result of the general use of quinine, all seem to enter into the process but not equally or uniformly.

The book is condensed; the more important matters are in large type; the illustrations are abundant and adequate; the bibliographies extensive; the arrangement logical and the presentation exceptionally succinct and lucid.

C. A. Kofoid


Dr. Head prefaces his book with the statement that "Cleanliness of the teeth and gums will absolutely prevent decay, and may sometimes cure it." Accordingly, half of his pages are spent in the minute description of the way the toothbrush and dental floss should be handled to clean all surfaces of the teeth and the spaces between them. Should the lay reader patiently follow these instructions he would doubtless have fewer bacteria in his mouth. Modern studies of nutrition indicate, however, that oral cleanliness alone will not prevent decay. It must be accompanied by adequate nutrition. One wonders whether his suggested procedures give enough consideration to the possibility of injuring the soft tissues. The author has done well to emphasize the importance of the size of the toothbrush. A brush with small bristles reduces the pivoting arc of each bristle, and thus increases bristle friction.

The remainder of the book deals with the dreadful consequences of tooth neglect (so depicted as either to repel the reader or to drive him to the nearest dentist) and with the care of removable plates and bridges. He also adds a few words to explain irregularities in the development of teeth in children.

This little book gives a clear and complete description of the process of cleaning teeth.

B. J. B.