

Among the mummies belonging to the early period are two of peculiar interest, which we believe are recent additions to the collection. These are the skeletons of two Egyptian officials, Khati and Heni, which are exhibited in the First Egyptian Room in cases E and F above the rectangular wooden coffins in which they were found. These two skeletons date from about 2600 B.C., and represent a peculiar method of burial, unlike the usual Egyptian custom of mummifying the body. In the case of Khati and Heni the flesh was removed from the bones before burial by means of muriate of soda or natron, and the bones were then treated with bitumen, which has tinted them a light yellow; they were then wrapped in linen, a layer of which may be seen in case E under Khati's skeleton. Khati's skull is peculiarly interesting on account of the two indentations in the parietal bones; these, Dr. Budge remarks, "must have been made artificially in early childhood because the surface of the bones is not broken." Heni's bones have been articulated, and the skeleton is about 5 feet 6 inches long; it is a very fine specimen of this method of mummifying as carried on under the eleventh dynasty. This method of mummifying the dead, by treating the bones with bitumen after removing the flesh, goes back many thousands of years, and was probably the earliest method of preserving their dead employed by the inhabitants of Egypt; for many of the skeletons from prehistoric sites that have been recently found by M. de Morgan have been treated with bitumen in a similar manner.

Turning to the later portion of the collection, among the most noteworthy exhibits are three painted cartonnage-cases of a Graeco-Roman official (Plate xxiii.) and his two wives, one of whom is figured on Plate xxiv. These we fancy are also recent additions to the collection, and are probably the best examples of their kind in Europe. The modelling is good, so that the cases are remarkably life-like and give a good idea of the dress worn at the period, about 200 A.D.

We have not done more than give a passing reference to three or four out of this unique series of mummies and mummy-cases. Beginning in the First Egyptian Room with the mummy-case of Mycerinus, the builder of the fourth pyramid at Gizeh in the fourth millenium B.C., and ending with the wooden coffin of the Greek or Roman lady, who lies with her three children at the end of the Second Egyptian Room, we can trace upon the mummies and their cases the religious beliefs of the ancient Egyptians as they developed through a period of some four thousand years. To the student of religions a comparative study of this nature presents considerable attractions, and he will welcome Dr. Budge's guide, which supplies him with concise though detailed information on every exhibit in the two galleries. The Trustees, with a view to enhancing the value of the guide for educational purposes, have issued it in two forms, *i.e.* with and without plates; the former is published at the ridiculously low price of one shilling, and the latter at sixpence. Paper and printing leave nothing to be desired.

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OUR BOOK SHELF.

An Introduction to Practical Physics for Use in Schools.

By D. Rintoul, M.A. Pp. xx + 166. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1898.)

So many volumes containing courses of work in practical physics have lately appeared, that it would hardly seem necessary to increase their number. But a critical examination of the present volume is sufficient to afford justification for adding the book to those previously available. The author succeeded Prof. Worthington at Clifton College, and has carried on the work commenced there of making practical physics a subject practicable for junior students. The experiments described are thus not of the kind invented by the arm-chair philosopher—now happily becoming extinct—but those which have stood the test of experience, and have proved to be suitable for the class of students expected to perform them.

The book does not provide a complete course of practical work in physics, but only on some branches of physical measurement. Experiments on mensuration and hydrostatics occupy fifty-four pages, heat is dealt with in fifty-seven pages, and the third part on dynamics fills fifty-three pages. Light, sound, electricity, and magnetism are not touched upon, but presumably they will form the subject of a second volume. There can, however, be no doubt that the subjects included in the present volume are fundamental for students of physics, and form the best basis for future work.

The plan adopted by Mr. Rintoul, and proved by him to be suited to the mental capacity of boys of thirteen or fourteen, is a compromise between the Socratic and didactic methods of teaching. Sufficient explanation is given to enable the young experimenter to proceed with his work intelligently, and to grasp the significance of the results. He is then in a position to understand the effects produced by different conditions; and Mr. Rintoul provides him with many questions upon which he can usefully exercise his mind.

The book is especially suitable for the modern sides of public schools. As a physical laboratory manual for use in schools of this character it can be highly commended.

A Text-book of Special Pathological Anatomy. By Prof. Ernst Ziegler. Translated and edited from the eighth German edition by Donald Macalister, M.A., M.D., and Henry W. Cattell, M.A., M.D. Sections i.-viii., and ix.-xv., in two vols. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1897. New York: The Macmillan Company.)

The first English edition of Ziegler's "Pathological Anatomy" was published in 1884, and at once achieved the success in this country which the original work had already attained in Germany. It is without doubt the best work in pathological anatomy in English. The present edition, translated and edited from the eighth German edition, brings the ever-increasing subject of pathological anatomy up to date, and it may be said at once that the editors have done their work in an excellent and lucid manner. The two volumes under review deal with the pathological changes occurring in particular parts of the body; and with an aspect of the subject which is of great importance to the practitioner, and of great value to the professed pathologist. The latter will find in the work copious references to the literature of each special part of the subject, arranged in a very useful manner. The ordinary medical student will perhaps find the present work (which will be followed by a third volume) too large for his purpose, but for the student for a university degree, and for the working pathologist, Ziegler's "Pathological Anatomy" is a necessity.