

cognise resemblances than to overlook differences; and in the excessive multiplication of genera and species (as distinct from division into races) there is undoubtedly a great danger of losing sight of mutual affinities.

As instances of this multiplication, reference may be made to the specific separation of the Irish from the Scotch hare, of the Scotch from the English wild cat, and of the British from the Continental water-rats. On the other hand, the British squirrel is regarded merely as a local race of the Continental species, a classification difficult to reconcile with that adopted in the case of the species just mentioned. Whatever may be individual views on such matters, we venture to think that most naturalists will agree in objecting to the principle of introducing the names of one or more species between those of the typical form and the races of another, as is done in the case of the wild cats. In regard to generic grouping, it may be mentioned that, in the case of mice, the long-tailed species appears as *Mus sylvaticus*, and the harvest-mouse as *Apodemus minutus*, whereas the latter (if generic splitting be adopted), should be *Micromys minutus*, and the former *Apodemus sylvaticus*. The weasels, again, are included in the same genus as the polecats, from which they are sundered by many modern naturalists. As regards the distribution of the European fauna, the author recognises four distinct areas, viz., Central European, Arctic, Eastern or Steppe, and African or Mediterranean.

While congratulating Dr. Trouessart on the completion of a laborious task, we may take the opportunity of mentioning that his work strongly emphasises and confirms a reply the present writer was compelled to make some months ago to Dr. A. R. Wallace, namely, that to give, even approximately, the number of species of mammals inhabiting the various zoological provinces is, under present conditions, an absolute impossibility. It is very largely a case of "go as you please."

R. L.

THE SCIENCE OF PATHOLOGY.

The Principles of Pathology. By Prof. J. G. Adami, F.R.S., and Prof. A. G. Nicholls, F.R.S. (Can.). Vol. II., Systemic Pathology. Pp. xvi+1082. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder and Stoughton, 1910. Price 30s. net.

THIS second volume of Prof. Adami's great work on the science of pathology deals with systemic pathology—the pathology of the individual tissues and organs of the body, or special pathology, as it is often termed—and has been written in conjunction with his colleague, Prof. Nicholls. In the preface the authors offer an (unneeded) apology for the bulkiness of the first volume on general pathology (reviewed in *NATURE* of November 25, 1909, vol. lxxxii., p. 94), and the relative brevity of this second volume, for many would consider that special pathology requires at least double the space devoted to general pathology. They point out, however, that, provided the student has acquired a good grasp of general pathology, he has but to apply

those principles in order to become possessed of a sound basis of special pathology, a proposition with which we are in complete agreement.

But for the inclusion, therefore, of the pathology of the blood and cardio-vascular system, and also of the disorders of function as well as of structure of the various organs, even the present volume might have been curtailed in length. At the same time, we think that this attempt at brevity has in some cases been carried too far, and although the subjects may have been dealt with at length in the first volume on general pathology, some repetition would not have been out of place. As instances, we may mention the bare reference to diabetes in the section dealing with the pancreas, and the omission of blackwater fever as a disease in which hæmoglobinuria occurs. Otherwise, we confess we have found little to criticise, and the work gives a very full and accurate account of the subject.

Each organ is dealt with on a systematic plan; first a brief summary of its developmental history, anatomical structure and physiological functions, followed by a description of the congenital and acquired abnormalities, circulatory disturbances, inflammations and parasitic infections, and retrogressive and progressive metamorphoses to which it may be subject. In the division devoted to the blood and cardio-vascular system, the sections dealing with leucæmia seem somewhat brief in view of the importance of the subject, and no mention is made of cases of the lymphatic variety in which the total number of leucocytes is not markedly increased, but in which nearly all the leucocytes present are lymphocytes. In the section dealing with pernicious anæmia also no mention is made of the almost invariable leucopenia present, a point of considerable diagnostic importance in the numerous cases in which the blood picture is not typical. In discussing the origin of œdema, the authors hold that the facts demand the assumption (with Heidenhain) that the lymphatic and capillary endothelium is endowed with a certain grade of selective secretory activity.

In the section dealing with the diseases of the nose it is surely not expedient to refer to the common polypus as a "polyp," a term which now has a more or less definite zoological signification.

We congratulate the authors heartily on the completion of their labours; the work is not a mere compilation, but is the outcome of a ripe personal knowledge of the subject. Divergent views are stated fairly, and if the authors' views do not always agree with those current, the reasons are given, and they merit careful consideration.

The book is profusely illustrated with plates and figures (some coloured), drawn or photographed directly from patients, specimens, and sections, which are admirably reproduced. We think it a mistake, however, not to have given the magnification of the photomicrographs; simply to state, as is done, the lenses with which the photographs were taken does not sufficiently indicate the magnification of the object depicted.