

the genus *Pleurosorus*, which is found as three scarcely differing forms in Southern Spain (*P. Pozoi*), South Chile (*S. papaverifolius*), and Australia (*P. rutae-folius*). These small xerophytic rock ferns may well be cited as examples of the simultaneous appearance of a species in widely separated localities.

There is but one fault to find with this otherwise excellent book, and that is that the illustrations, most of which are very good, have been inserted without any particular reference to the text, and some difficulty is experienced in attempting to find the figures which are intended to illustrate particular descriptions.

A. W. H.

OPHTHALMIC THERAPEUTICS.

An International System of Ophthalmic Practice.

Edited by Dr. Walter L. Pyle. Therapeutics. By Dr. A. Darier. Translated by S. Stephenson. Pp. xiv+444. (London: Rebman, Ltd., 1911.) Price 17s. 6d. net.

THIS is the first volume of an "International System of Ophthalmic Practice," edited by Dr. Walter L. Pyle, of Philadelphia. Other volumes announced are on "Medical Ophthalmology," by Dr. Arnold Knapp, of New York; "Ophthalmic Diagnosis," by Dr. Charles H. Beard, of Chicago; "Pathology and Bacteriology of the Eye," by Messrs. Treacher Collins and M. S. Mayou, of London; "Affections of the Orbit and Accessory Cavities," by Dr. Christian R. Holmes, of Cincinnati; "Examination and Refraction of the Eye and Eye-strain," by the editor; and "Ophthalmic Surgery," the authorship of which is not stated. It will be seen that the scheme is comprehensive, and that the aim is essentially practical. The authors are men of established reputation, and may be relied upon to carry out their work ably, so that the system will form a valuable, if not indispensable, addition to the ophthalmologist's library. If the volumes reach the standard of the sample which we have before us we may confidently prophesy the financial success of the series.

Those who have read Dr. Darier's lectures and papers on ophthalmic therapeutics in their original form in French must have approached the present work with some misgivings. Dr. Darier is an enthusiast for *novae res*. He possesses in marked degree the mental agility of the Latin race, quick to appreciate new facts, eager to traverse new paths. True, he sometimes appears to the onlookers to skip rather than to run, but then he is an artist, and a savour of art is not without its uses in dealing with the science of medicine, a science which, though yet in its infancy, is called upon to perform the feats of mature development. Dr. Darier's enthusiasm often outruns discretion, but in this book it has been curbed by the "free editorial control" which has been exercised upon the manuscript. In the end we have a sound work on the treatment of diseases of the eye, which by virtue of the large space devoted to the discussion of new methods and new drugs, forms a useful adjunct to the formal text-book.

The subject is divided into two parts, general and special therapeutics. The first commences with a

chapter on methods of diagnosis, devoted to such topics as serum diagnosis and the demonstration of spirochaetes. Constitutional treatment is then dealt with, stress being laid upon the technique of hypodermic and intravenous medication and subconjunctival injections. The chapter on serum- and organo-therapy will prove particularly useful to the ophthalmologist, who has perforce to obtain his knowledge of these matters second-hand. It might have been expanded with advantage, and a freer citation of original papers would have enhanced its value. The ophthalmologist cannot afford to ignore serum-therapy, which now has so large a place in medical treatment, but it is a two-edged weapon, and should be used with the utmost caution. Much space is devoted to photo-electro-, hydro-, mechano-therapy, X-rays, and radium; as a rule original papers are quoted, and the reader is left to draw his own conclusions. Of more value are the chapters on drugs—anaesthetics, analgesics, vaso-dilators, vaso-constrictors, mydriatics and cycloplegics, miotics and silver compounds; their virtues and vices and the modes of their application are quite well described.

In the section on special therapeutics, the diseases of the eye are dealt with seriatim in the manner of an ordinary text-book. Too little stress is laid upon old and well-tried methods, so that the reader is liable to obtain a wrong perspective. The book, however, is clearly intended for specialists who are capable of forming an independent opinion in these matters. It would be easy to criticise many of the statements, but those most open to attack are such as only time and extended experience can ultimately settle. They are topics of constant dispute in ophthalmic journals, where they can most suitably be ventilated. In discussing cataract, glaucoma, and so on reference has to be made to operative measures. It would have been better to have relegated these matters entirely to the volume on ophthalmic surgery, where they will doubtless be treated exhaustively. The cursory remarks are of little value; on the other hand, they do not occupy much space.

We can cordially recommend the book to the consideration of advanced students of ophthalmology, and they will be well advised to look out for the other volumes of the series.

PHARMACOGNOSY IN THE UNITED STATES.

A Text-book of Botany and Pharmacognosy, intended for the Use of Students of Pharmacy, as a Reference Book for Pharmacists, and as a Handbook for Food and Drug Analysts. By Prof. H. Kraemer. Fourth revised and enlarged edition. Pp. viii+888. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co., n.d.) Price 15s. net.

ALTHOUGH in English text-books botany is not usually combined with pharmacognosy, it is undeniable that such a combination possesses for the student of the latter science the distinct advantage that much overlapping may be avoided, and that, by selecting medicinal plants to illustrate the botanical portion, the student, while studying botany, insensibly acquires a considerable amount of information con-