

very considerable improvement on the first, and there are a number of references to the applications of physics to medicine that may help to bring home to the student the dependence of his future work on the more fundamental sciences.

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MEDICINE AND THE LAW.

Lyon's Medical Jurisprudence for India, with Illustrative Cases. By Lt.-Col. L. A. Waddell. Sixth edition. Pp. xiii+783. (Calcutta and Simla: Thacker, Spink, and Co.; London: W. Thacker and Co., 1918.) Price 28s. net.

THE reviewer remembers the appearance of the first edition of this work in 1888, for in that year he passed from military to civil employ under the Government of India and became a district civil surgeon. That officer, to a certain extent, combines the duties of police surgeon and coroner, since all medico-legal cases are submitted to him. Upon his report further action depends. Where the use of poisons is suspected he passes on the viscera or other material to the chemical examiner, whose report is attached to the surgeon's record. In the Presidency cities where there exist coroners' courts a special surgeon is appointed for medico-legal work. In Calcutta and Bombay that officer is also lecturer on medical jurisprudence in the medical college. The later editions controlled by Lt.-Col. Waddell have maintained the reputation which Lyon's work acquired at its first appearance. With advances in research and experience new tests and methods have been added, while old technique has been improved. Time brings few changes in fundamentals, but, as knowledge increases, science follows more closely the track of the criminal and provides more certain help to those who administer the law.

There can be no more profitable school for the student of forensic medicine than a large Indian city such as either Bombay or Calcutta. Lyon took his material from the police records of Bombay and from that classic storehouse of illustrative cases erected by Norman Chevers. As regards toxicology Lt.-Col. Waddell was specially fitted for the editorial work through practical knowledge acquired as a Government chemical examiner in Calcutta. It is again, in this new edition, from Bombay that much help has come. In the "Preface" Lt.-Col. Waddell records indebtedness to the experience of Prof. Arthur Powell, lecturer on medical jurisprudence at the Bombay University.

Very useful advice is given to the medical witness as to demeanour in court and as to the character of his replies to questions. This advice is amplified in the appendices, where examples are given of the kind of question which may be expected in particular cases.

Now that well-deserved praise has been given, is there anything lacking, anything that might be amended? While most of the chapters contain the latest information, it is noticeable that

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chap. xxvii., "Snake Venoms," gives no reference to the valuable recent researches of Acton and Knowles ("Ind. Jour. Med. Res.," 1914, pp. 46-148). This paper "throws the searchlight into many dark places, straightens some crooked ways, and is altogether illuminating and inspiring" (Alcock).

Again, one is surprised to find scorpions and spiders classed as "venomous insects" (p. 592). Errors which might be due to proof reader or printer are few and of no great importance. "Myer" for "Mayer" (pp. 623, 624) might lead to momentary difficulty, but the reagent is well known. The book has a good general index and also a "Vernacular Index of Plants and Drugs." We notice some differences in the spelling of certain names in the text and in the latter index. This may be due to different hands using slightly different methods of transliteration. As cases of self-inflicted injuries to support false charges are rare in England, it may be mentioned that the case of Jitan Ali Mir (ref. p. 573) was fully reported, under the title "Two Interesting Medico-legal Cases."

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OUR BOOKSHELF.

Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Terrestrial Magnetism. United States Magnetic Tables and Magnetic Charts for 1915. By D. L. Hazard. Pp. 256+maps 5 in pocket. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917.)

THE latest American publication of similar scope referred to 1905, but declination charts for 1910 have been published. The observing stations used for the present charts exceeded in number those used for the 1905 charts by some 50 per cent. For declination 405 sea observations were used, and results from 6120 land stations, including 1129 in Canada, Mexico, and the West Indies. The first set of tables give declination (D), inclination (I), and horizontal force (H) results obtained at successive epochs at repeat stations. The D and I results are given to the nearest 1', the H results to the nearest 10γ. The second set of tables gives the corrections for reducing observations taken at different epochs and in different geographical positions to the epoch January 1, 1915. They are followed by tables giving D, I, and H, first as observed at the several stations, then as reduced to January 1, 1915. The last set of tables gives for each whole degree of latitude and longitude the values for January 1, 1915, of D, I, H, total force (T), and north, east, and vertical (V) components. Latitudes from 19° to 51° N. are included. At 19° N. the longitudes range from 74° to 105° W., while at 47° N. they range from 64° to 128° W. In these final tables the D and I results go to 0'10", the force results to 0.001 C.G.S.

A pocket at the end of the volume contains charts of D, I, H, V, and T for the epoch January 1, 1915, the lines of equal values of the elements being in red. The first three charts