

both as an investigator and teacher. In many respects he was more prescient than some of his contemporaries, for he early apprehended the importance of the new pathology and made it the basis of scientific medicine. This practice is so generally accepted to-day that we are apt to forget it is in large part due to Osler; through his work and teaching the modern presentation of medicine, based on known causes with signs and symptoms explained or verified in the *post-mortem* room and in the laboratory, has emerged.

Although a sedulous compiler of the work of others, in medicine itself Osler made numerous original observations. In 1902, he described the condition of cyanosis with polycythæmia, known as Vaquez-Osler disease, and an hereditary malady characterised by multiple telangiectases associated with hæmorrhages may rightly also be styled Osler's disease. His Goulstonian lectures on malignant endocarditis, his lectures on the cerebral palsies of children, and his Lumleian lectures on angina pectoris, were based on a wealth of clinical experience and information. In addition to the work published under his own name, many important discoveries in various branches of medicine put forth by his colleagues and pupils can be ascribed to what Clifford Allbutt termed Osler's wonderful power, only possessed by a few great teachers, of "inseminating other minds."

As Dr. Cushing writes: "There were indeed many Oslers: the physician, the professor, the scholar, the author, the bibliophile, the historian, the philanthropist, the friend and companion for young or old." In literature and philosophy, his learning was profound, and his presidential address to the Classical Association at Oxford in 1919 on "The Old Humanities and the New Science" impressed his audience with his width of outlook, his easy mastery of great tracts of literature, and his all-embracing humanity in the widest sense of the term. Those who knew and loved Osler—and few men have been more personally beloved throughout the world—will feel grateful to Dr. Cushing for dwelling on the intimate aspect of Sir William's character, for revealing through his own words his infinite capacity for friendship and his unselfish aid to every one who came to him in doubt or difficulty. "He talked with crowds and kept his virtue, or walked with kings—nor lost the common touch."

Such is the story told by Dr. Cushing; the theme is noble, the book is worthy of its subject; there is little to criticise; we could have spared a page treating of the Royal College of Physicians from a mistaken point of view, and the addition of a complete list of Osler's published writings would have been desirable; but the matter is all pure gold and the book should rank as one of the classical biographies. A. S. M.

Our Bookshelf.

Trees and How they Grow. By G. Clarke Nuttall. New edition. Pp. xi+184+70 plates. (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1923.) 7s. 6d. net.

MR. NUTTALL'S work is a chatty book about the botany, history, and literature of our common trees. The biological details are fairly accurate, attention being paid to the pollination of the flower, the distribution of the seed, and the growth of the seedling. Errors, however, are not infrequent in the other part of the text, mainly due to previous writers, from whom the author has compiled. The remarkable hazel tree, 60 feet high, at Syon House, Brentford, is not the common species (as stated on p. 5, an error due to Tollemache in 1901); but is *Corylus Colurna*, the Turkish hazel, a large forest tree of S.E. Europe and Asia Minor. There are actually three magnificent Turkish hazels at Syon, ranging in height from 68 to 87 feet.

The derivations of tree names in this book are mostly of the kind known as folk-etymology, and perpetuate time-honoured errors. The statement (p. 60) that the Lombardy poplar is a native of the Himalayas is without foundation, there being no doubt that it originated, as its name indicates, in the plain of the River Po. The statement (p. 16) that the word elm is a derivative of the Latin *ulmus* is incorrect, and certainly lends no support to the tradition that the common elm was introduced into Britain by the Romans. The wych elm is so called on account of its pendulous branches (A.S. *wice*, bending), and the etymology given on p. 16 is impossible. The derivation (p. 24) of the Latin *taxus*, yew, from the Greek *τόξον*, a bow, rests on a guess of Pliny and is not supported by any evidence. Absurd derivations of the Latin *alnus*, alder (p. 47), and *carpinus*, hornbeam (p. 53), are put forward. Acorn means the fruit of the open country (A.S. *æcern*), and has no connexion (as stated on p. 104) with the A.S. *ac*, oak—the present spelling "acorn" being a good example of the influence of folk-etymology on the form of words. The word holly (p. 133) is not derived from the Norse, and has no connexion with the word *holy*. The A.S. name of the tree is *holen* or *holegn*, cognate with the Irish *cuileann* and the Welsh *celyn*. This name is as old as the A.S. *mapel* (*Acer campestre*), which is said (p. 141) to be an old British name, "handed down to us from days long before Anglo-Saxons were thought of; and it is the only plant whose name has come down from those days." This is a fairy tale without any foundation. The lime tree owes its name to a corruption of the A.S. *lind*, which survives in the adjective linden; and the explanation offered by Mr. Nuttall is baseless.

The book may be serviceable in Nature study classes, as it is cheap, readable, and provided with useful illustrations.

The Borders and Beyond: Arctic, Cheviot, Tropic. By Abel Chapman. Pp. xxi+489+35 plates. (London and Edinburgh: Gurney and Jackson, 1924.) 25s. net.

THIS book is a fine record of personal observation of wild life at home and abroad, and sets forth the opinions arrived at by the author as the result of many years