

schisms perpetrated by some of the less recent authors, who did not realise the importance of fungi in so many of the diseases under review. This is followed by the reference to some 1,375 articles bearing on the subject—a truly comprehensive and international bibliography.

Another section of the work of particular interest to the dermatologist is that on the Trichophytoneæ. The different clinical types are described with methods of prophylaxis. Many cultural methods are given to suit the various types of specimen and organism, and the therapeutical agents in common use are enumerated from two points of view: first, the drugs used by dermatologists in practice, and secondly the result of many inhibitant substances used *in vitro* in laboratories. These do not coincide, because of the differences of the conditions *in vivo* from those obtaining *in vitro*. This is attributed largely to differences in the pH value of the horny layer of the skin to which the lesions are confined, temperature of this layer and of the media, and the

oxygen pressure present. The Trichophytoneæ are frequently carried in the blood stream, but do not develop in tissues other than the horny layer of the skin. The experiments proving this contention are well described, as are the allergic phenomena in infections with the Trichophytoneæ.

Aspergillaceæ and Actinomycetæ are dealt with in the same complete and thorough manner.

In the reviewer's opinion, this work is a very important contribution in which an immense amount of the relevant bibliography is quoted and collected in its appropriate place to assist the student and research worker, and further it epitomizes the available modern knowledge of the subject. Apart from the botanic interest and classification, the ever-increasing appreciation of the medical profession of the importance and frequency of the incidence of these fungous infections in the human subject demands that every dermatologist should read this valuable book.

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Society and the Institution of Marriage

The Future of Marriage in Western Civilization

By Dr. Edward Westermarck. Pp. xiv + 281. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1936.) 12s. 6d. net.

PROF. WESTERMARCK has applied his world-wide knowledge of the institution of marriage and his life-long experience in analysing its various forms and manifestations to the practical question of the present position and the future of marriage in modern Western civilization—a question indeed which has been much discussed of late years, but at present, momentarily perhaps, seems less insistent. He examines the question here from all sides. Its defects, real or alleged, and the suggested remedies are taken seriatim and discussed with a broad-minded tolerance befitting the impartial attitude of the man of science and the philosopher. This is a point which it is not otiose to make, as Prof. Westermarck has been accused by some of his critics of a bias which makes the monogamous marriage the touchstone of his conclusions as the ultimate and highest development of the institution—in other words, that his arguments have an ethical rather than a scientific background.

History, we are often told, repeats itself. It is interesting to note that whatever the problem under consideration, whatever the remedy which has been tried or is being discussed, Prof. Wester-

marck has an apposite parallel to cite from the vast store of his knowledge of primitive, barbarian or extra-European culture and from all time. Yet with all this wealth of detail at his command, no mechanical citation of parallels, as he explains in summing up his thesis, has been allowed to offer a speciously facile solution of the problem. He probes more deeply, seeking the underlying causes, that is, the emotional urges which, persistent and perennial, have moulded and will continue to mould the union of the sexes in their chief function, that is, the continuance of the species.

In other words, Prof. Westermarck believes the continued existence of the monogamous marriage as an institution, whatever subsidiary relaxations may be admitted for more aberrant or special needs, is assured as the permanent, and in the long run predominant, form of union. This depends mainly, if not completely, upon its function as the bond of the family, into which children are born and in which they are reared—this only, however, while there is no change in the fundamental urges of human nature as they have existed and persisted up to the present day.

To some it may seem that this conclusion begs the question and leaves the problem unresolved. To Prof. Westermarck, with his world-wide outlook, however, present discontents are but as transient ripples on the pool.