

**Vāgbhata's Astāngahrdayasamhitā**  
ein Altindisches Lehrbuch der Heilkunde. Aus dem Sanskrit ins deutsche übertragen mit Einleitung, Anmerkungen und Indices. Von Dr. Luise Hilgenberg und Prof. Willibald Kirfel. Lieferung 1. Pp. iv+64; Lieferung 2. Pp. 65-128; Lieferung 3. Pp. 129-192; Lieferung 4. Pp. 193-256. (Leiden: E. J. Brill, Ltd., 1937.) 3.50 guilders each part.

OF the early Indian treatises on medicine, that of Vāgbhata is one of the most important. The author flourished at the end of the eighth century, A.D., and although translations of his works have appeared, he seems to have remained to a large extent unrecognized and unknown. He divides his matter into sections. In Part 1, theoretical principles are considered, based upon the conception that "The chyle, blood, flesh, fat, marrow and sperm are the seven bodily elements that may become corrupted". Towards the end of this section, various surgical instruments are described and pictured—forceps, bone and lion forceps, straight and curved needles, saws, and others—all much like those used at present. Certain surgical procedures are also described, such as methods for the removal of foreign bodies from wounds. Part 2 deals with the physiology of the body, commencing with conception, pregnancy and birth, and Part 3 with the etiology of disease, discussing fever, coughs, respiratory affections and heart disease, consumption and urinary troubles, abscesses and abdominal complaints.

The translation appears to be a scholarly one, an attempt is made to convey the exact meaning of the original, and in order that there shall be no doubt the Sanskrit word is frequently given in brackets after its German equivalent. Further, the various plants, etc., comprised in Vāgbhata's *materia medica* are identified so far as possible. We await with interest the completion of the work.

#### Aristotle

**Parts of Animals**; with an English translation by Dr. A. L. Peck; **Movement of Animals**; **Progression of Animals**; with an English translation by Prof. E. S. Forster. (Loeb Classical Library, No. 323.) Pp. v+556. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd.; Cambridge, Mass.; Harvard University Press, 1937.) 10s. net.

HERE is the Greek text, faced by excellent translations, of the three works of Aristotle of most interest to students in animal physiology, namely, "Parts of Animals", "Movement of Animals" and "Progression of Animals". Dr. Marshall's "Foreword" sets the right key for the reader, namely, composition leading to function, first tissues consolidated into organs. Aristotle is altogether charming; his method is that of science—and students and the dilettanti, who read, will be delighted. The food of plants "is already concocted before it enters them, and in return for it they yield their fruit and seeds". Horns on the head "offer the least possible hindrance to the movements of the body in general". "The Progression of Animals" is quite a basal treatise for research, so popular to-day, on the swimming and other movements of animals.

#### The Sturge Collection:

An Illustrated Selection of Foreign Stone Implements bequeathed in 1919 by William Allen Sturge. By Reginald A. Smith. Pp. viii+131+plates 12-16. (London: British Museum, 1937.) 21s. net.

THIS volume, dealing with stone implements from foreign sites, completes the publication by the British Museum of the Sturge Bequest, the vast collection of stone implements bequeathed to the nation by Dr. Allen Sturge, who died on March 27, 1919. The first volume by Mr. Reginald Smith dealt with implements from sites in Britain; and in the volume now issued the same authority has selected a representative sample of the remaining implements. Of these the greater number come from France, but other sites represented are in the various countries of Europe, Asia Minor, Egypt, Africa, north, east, west and south, Palestine, India, the Far East and Australia. The American section is regarded as ethnographical, and has been omitted.

As the basis of a scientific investigation, the collection suffers, according to the modern orientation of archaeological studies, from lack of adequate documentation; but as a whole the assemblage of so vast a collection of specimens, representative in type, is in itself of immense value. Its use is facilitated by the succinct but admirable explanatory paragraphs which Mr. Smith has prefixed to the descriptive notes on each group of specimens selected for illustration, these being arranged under sites on a geographical basis of distribution, taking Britain as its starting-point. The references to the more important literary sources for each site are invaluable as an *aide-memoire*, as well as a guide.

An alphabetical list of sites represented in the collection also serves as an index.

#### Qualitative Inorganic Analysis

By A. J. Berry. Pp. viii+147. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1938.) 6s.

PERHAPS the main features of this book which distinguish it from many other excellent textbooks on qualitative analysis are: (1) the inclusion of several so-called rare elements (such as thallium, zirconium, vanadium and lithium) which are now less expensive and are also of scientific and technical interest, and (2) the inclusion of many modern reagents (particularly organic compounds) in the descriptions of the reactions of the radicals.

After a short but commendably clear and instructive theoretical introduction, the book deals fully with the reactions of the metals in the order of the usual groups, with the reactions of acid radicals, with the systematic analysis of the metals, and with the examination for acid radicals. The author does not approve of the use of analytical tables, so he omits them; many teachers will wish that they had been included. The directions for group separations are, however, quite clear, and the disadvantages of turning over pages and getting more of the book stained by reagents may be outweighed by some advantages which are not very clear to the reviewer.