BOOK REVIEW

Autonomic Regulations. Their Significance for Physiology, Psychology and Neuropsychiatry. By Ernst Gellhorn, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Physiology, College of Medicine, University of Illinois. 373 pages with 80 illustrations and frontispiece. New York: Interscience Publishers, Inc., 1943. Price, $5.50.

This book is the outgrowth of a series of lectures given by the author during the past nine years. The lectures themselves were the result of intensive research in the field of physiological autonomic regulation.

The 308 pages of actual text represent a complete survey of the autonomic system, its physiological adjustments to such conditions as carbon dioxide, anoxia, asphyxia, hemorrhage, hypoglycemia and cerebral circulation. The integration of the autonomic and endocrine systems is adequately covered in a thought-provoking fashion. Autonomic-Somatic integration comes in for its full share of discussion and a final section of the book deals with the physiological results and the clinical applications to which this knowledge may be put.

Each chapter is brief and to the point; being sub-divided clearly into its numerous sub-topics. The material contained in each chapter is of tremendous scope and importance and not only brings our knowledge of the subject up to date but points the way down innumerable avenues of research for the future. At the close of each chapter there is a concise summary of the material previously presented.

That all of the material in the text is not original is made clear by the bibliography containing 1100 references. This in itself is a monumental piece of work and opens up a tremendous field to the sincere seeker for knowledge about the autonomic nervous system.

Even though this work is brief and concise and even though each chapter is followed by its own summary, this book is not for the novice. Unless the reader is founded and grounded in Anatomy, Chemistry and Physiology and Pharmacology, he will find nothing but confusion in its pages. To the man who knows these things, this book and its bibliography present perhaps the most important contribution on the subject to the present time.

Rowland Ricketts, M.D.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Books received are acknowledged in this department and such acknowledgment must be regarded as a sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Selections will be made for review in the interests of our readers and as space permits.

