teach. . . . Alas! he succumbed suddenly, to the ir-
reparable loss of science in America. He had a mind
of singular acuteness, a clear judgment, and he had
captured at Mall some measure of that investigating
spirit that has made the anatomical school of John
Hopkins a name so famous. When the news reached
me of his death, one morning as I sat at breakfast,
I broke down in an irresistible paroxysm of regret and
had to leave the table"—one of the few occasions
when Osler's *aequanimitas* failed him.

Said the versatile Dr. A. MacCallum, of Dunnville and London, Ont., J. B., like his elder
brother, W. G., the pathologist, was one of the large
group of distinguished research workers, pupils of
Ramsay Wright, which the University of Toronto con-
tributed to Johns Hopkins in the '90's. During his
short years at Baltimore and in California, under
Loeb, where he bravely fought a losing fight against
tuberculosis, he did pioneer work of permanent value
on the embryology and histology of the heart muscle
and the salines, and on the action of calcium and
the salines. His letters give an introspective picture
of his student days, his work, his summers in Muskoka,
his travels—to Germany, Jamaica, Denver (where he
practised briefly) and California, and in addition they
have a literary, romantic, and psychological interest.
He was also an artist, musician, story-writer, and
the few poems included make one wish that room
had been found for more. The "Spirit of Death",
when he conjured it, answered only too promptly:
Oh come, be swift and take me while I stand,
My work still strong beneath a steady hand,
O'ershadowing life that ne'er grew old!
As might be expected of the distinguished Cana-
dian librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine,
Dr. Malloch has skilfully handled his abundant
material. It is that best kind of work, a labour of
love, for MacCallum was a hero to him in his boy-
hood. The book is finely printed.

Monograph on Veins. K. J. Franklin, D.M., M.R.C.P.
410 pp., illus., $6.00. C. C. Thomas, Springfield,
Ill., 1937.

The author introduces the following quotation
from a letter by J. S. Haldane, "Physiology may be
compared to a house partly built, partly building,
and partly being re-built". In no respect is this more
applicable than as regards our knowledge of the circu-
latory system, and, probably, one detail which has
suffered neglect more than any other is the venous
circulation. The present work reviews and enlar-
ges our knowledge of the veins with unusual and welcome
comprehensiveness. Nowhere else is so much brought
together on this branch of physiology.

It is however much more than a mere collection
of facts. Physiology is fully discussed. The chapter
on the function of venous valves, for example, is most
enlightening, not the least interesting part being the
uncertainty that still exists regarding some aspects
of their function. Chapters on embryology and com-
parative anatomy complete a full and valuable contri-
bution to the physiology of the veins.

Twenty-five Years of Health Progress. L. I. Dublin,
Ph.D. and A. J. Lotka, D.Sc. 611 pp. Metropolitan

This comprehensive study is a veritable mine of
information regarding what has happened during the
course of a quarter of a century among the policy-
holders of the Industrial Department of the Metro-
politan Life Insurance Company. As this group has
proved to be representative of the country as a whole,
the happenings, as recorded, may be interpreted in a
national way.

The painstaking work of Doctors Dublin and
Lotka is deserving of the highest praise, and the
clearness of their exposition of the statistical material
makes the volume readily understandable by the
person with not too statistical a mind. Through this
publication the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
has added to the many worth-while contributions it
has made in the field of Public Health.

Russian Medicine. W. H. Gantt, M.D. Clio Medica
Series No. 20, 214 pp., illus., $2.50. P. B.
Hoebcr, New York, 1937.

This is volume 20 of the Clio Medica series of
primers of the History of Medicine. Dr. Gantt is well
qualified for the task of compiling a history of Russian
medicine, having served on the American Relief
Administration in 1922-23 and later having worked for
five years under the late Professor Pavlov. In 1935
he again visited Russia, and was thus able to observe
the Soviet phase at different stages of development.
He finds that medicine was much later in developing
in Russia than in Central and Western European
countries. While medical schools and hospitals staffed
by foreign doctors were established during the reign
of Peter the Great, it was not until the 19th century
that independent Russian medicine came into being,
associated with such names as Firogov, Pavlov, Mech-
nikov and Botkin. The chapter on famines and epi-
demics makes gruesome reading. Dr. Gantt's observa-
tions during his different visits to Soviet Russia have
led him to believe that "this completely regenerated
Russia is arising from the ruins of the old". While
his review of Soviet medicine is necessarily brief, it
would appear to be a well-balanced one and will be
read with interest. Of Soviet achievements he men-
tions the marked reduction of the death rate and infant
mortality rate, the control of such infectious diseases
as small-pox, typhoid and cholera, the great
increase in the number of hospitals, sanatoria and rest
homes, and the vast campaign in health education.
He noted on his last visit that the attitude of the
medical profession in Russia is now almost entirely
favourable to the new system of socialized medicine.

Physical Signs in Clinical Surgery. H. Bailey,
P.R.C.S.(Eng.). 6th ed., 284 pp., illus., $6.25.
Macmillan Co., Toronto, 1937.

This book is always up to date. One will look
for a long time amongst books on physical signs before
finding one with such carefully chosen and
beautifully reproduced illustrations. They really do
teach.

Minor Maladies and their Treatment. L. Williams,
Toronto, 1937.

There are many useful hints on treatment in this
book.

The Development of the Vertebrate Skull. G. R. de
Beer, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S. 552 pp., illus., $9.50.
McAlinah, Toronto, 1937.

Anyone who has ever attempted even in a general
way to compare the skull of man with that of lower
mammals or reptiles and to determine the morphology
of the different parts will realize how difficult a
field into which this book ventures. And it enters this
field in no casual way but to a depth of 515 closely
printed pages with abundant simple and clear illus-
trations.

The book is divided into three parts. The first
deals with some general questions of the nature of
cartilage and bone and goes on to review Goethe's
theory that the skull is made up of several fused
vestiges. This theory occupies a large part of the
book and is proved to be totally wrong. The second
part deals with the skull of various animals and is
written in such a way as to make it easier for one to
understand the evolution of man. The last part is
written in an entirely different way and is more
adapted to the study of comparative anatomy.

This book would be of interest to anyone who
wishes to learn about the development of the skull.