The Histopathology of the Diseases of the Skin. By P. G. UNNA. Translated from the German, with the assistance of the author, by NORMAN WALKER, M.D. Edin. With Double Coloured Plate containing Nineteen Illustrations, and Forty-two additional Illustrations in the text. Edinburgh: William F. Clay. 1896.

THIS is a work which we think no dermatological specialist can afford to be without. One thing which has struck us in almost all the text-books on skin disease with which we are acquainted is the comparative meagreness of detail as regards the microscopic anatomy of affections of the skin. This is perhaps the more remarkable as lesions of the skin are perhaps more easy to obtain during the life of the patient for histological investigation than those of any other organ or region of the body. Possibly, however, it has been largely due to the fact that imperfect methods of examination have rendered the results so dubious that investigators often gave up their work in despair. However, with the greatly improved histological methods now at our command, we may hope that this difficulty will soon be overcome, and a more accurate knowledge of the histology of skin disease soon be obtained. We may look upon this monumental work as one of the first fruits of the application of new histological and bacteriological methods to the study of the pathology of the skin. It was first undertaken five years before the publication of the German edition in 1894, and the wonder is that this vast amount of histological research should have been collected, classified, and presented in book form in so short a time. In most works on skin disease the sections on treatment have as great elaboration as those on symptomatology and diagnosis. In this volume the subject of treatment is omitted, the whole aim of the book being to forward our knowledge of the structural changes which lie at the root of all skin disease, and upon a knowledge of which all rational treatment depends. The careful perusal of this book will suggest to the reader the rational principles which should guide his treatment. A carefully classified table of contents greatly aids the reader in getting what he wants in the volume, and he is further facilitated in this by a full alphabetical index. The table of contents shows us that there are six sections in the volume, dealing with the following subjects:—I, Anomalies of Circulation; II, Inflammation, with subdivisions into (a) traumatic, (b) neurotic, (c) infectious inflammations, and including the acute exanthemata; III, Progressive Disturbances of Nutri-

tion, including (a) malignant and (b) benign new formations; IV, Regressive Disturbances of Nutrition—(a) with degeneration predominating, and (b) with atrophy predominating; V, Malformations; VI, Saprophytes and Foreign Bodies. Having given this outline of the contents, the reader will form some idea of the minuteness of detail with which everything is described when we say that the book extends to over 1,200 royal octavo pages. The illustrations, coloured and in black and white, are very well done, and full bibliographical lists are appended to each article. Unna has certainly added much to his already high reputation as a dermatologist by the publication of this work.

We cannot close this short notice without a word of congratulation to the translator, Dr. Norman Walker of Edinburgh. We already know him as the careful author of the English translation of Hansen and Looft's work on leprosy, and we have again to compliment him upon the excellence of his work in the present case. The publisher, Mr. Clay, also deserves credit for the manner in which he has placed this important work before the English-speaking public.

An Atlas of the Fertilization and Karyokinesis of the Ovum.

By EDMUND B. WILSON, Ph.D., with the co-operation of EDWARD LEAMING, M.D., F.R.P.S. New York: Published for the Columbia University Press by Macmillan & Co. 1895.

THIS very striking collection of plates illustrative of the internal changes in the process of fertilization and development of the egg has very much to recommend it. Photographed directly from nature, these plates impart, to say the least of it, a certain reality to processes which figured in diagrams, yet on the whole somewhat vaguely described up to the present, are to the average biologist somewhat shadowy fancies, vestiges of which do occasionally come across his vision, but the full significance of which has probably not yet been at all realised.

"Cytology," as it has been termed, has had, it must be said, a rather mysterious sound. As the author says in his preface—"The best drawing must necessarily be in some measure schematic, and embodies a considerable subjective element of interpretation; the photograph, however, whatever be its shortcomings (and no photograph can do full justice to nature), at least gives an absolutely unbiassed representation of what