

elliptical system to a spiral or barred-spiral system, and of the origin of the spiral arms in spiral systems.

The reader who has mastered this volume will be adequately prepared for the study of more advanced treatises or of the original papers, to which adequate references are given. The author's exposition is very clear, and the volume is well printed; but unfortunately the price is so high that it will be beyond the means of many students.

H. SPENCER JONES

THE YOSEMITE

One Hundred Years in Yosemite

The Story of a Great Park and its Friends. By Carl Parcher Russell. Pp. xviii + 226 + 28 plates. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press; London: Cambridge University Press, 1947.) 21s. net.

DR. C. P. RUSSELL, the author of this book, who is now chief naturalist of the United States National Park Service, was for many years stationed in the Yosemite and devoted much time to research into the history of the area and of those associated with it. The book is based upon one with the same title which he wrote in 1930, and incorporates much new material which, with never-flagging zeal, he brought together during the intervening years. A foreword has been contributed by the director of the National Park Service.

The Yosemite valley lies some 140 miles inland from San Francisco in the highlands of the Sierra Nevada, and is notable both for its magnificent scenery—one of the outstanding features being the famous Big Tree Grove—and for its interesting and romantic history. It became known through the prospectors who explored the outlying region for the mineral wealth which it was found to contain. As the result of the persuasive efforts of a few public-spirited persons it was decided to reserve the area for public enjoyment, and in 1864 by Act of Congress the State of California was given possession of an extensive district, including the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove, for permanent preservation. Unhappily, the existence of private rights had been overlooked or ignored, and great difficulties were encountered at first before a settlement was reached. Later, the growing threat to the surrounding area by the encroachment of sheep-farmers led to a movement for an enlargement of the State park. Owing to local opposition it failed, but the zone in question, which was larger than the original park, was set aside as reserved forest lands by the Federal Government in 1876 and administered as a national park. The inconvenience of dual control within the same district was obvious, and in 1905 the State offered its grant back to the Federal Government, the offer being accepted by Congress in 1906. Although in the strict sense the Yosemite was not a national park until then, as a public open space it preceded by some years the first national park, the Yellowstone, established in 1872.

Dr. Russell has spared no effort in investigating the history of the early pioneers, and does not gloss over the lawlessness which was too often a feature of those days. It should be noted that, while the needs of tourists visiting the national park for recreation

are fully catered for, scientific observations and their interpretation have received adequate attention, and a museum, illustrating the historical and scientific aspects of the region, has been established. The area of the national park, as now delimited, is 1,100 square miles.

The book contains a useful bibliography, and is well illustrated.

G. F. H. S.

A MANUAL OF DERMATOLOGY

The Skin Diseases

A Manual for Practitioners and Students. By Dr. James Marshall. Pp. xi + 363 + 8 plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1948.) 30s. net.

THIS new manual on dermatology is intended as a guide to diagnosis for students and as a reference book for practitioners. It is written by an author who, being primarily a venereologist, believes with some of the French school of dermatologists that syphilis is one of the most important of skin diseases, that dermatology and syphilology are inseparable, and that a comprehensive study of dermatology could be constructed on the sole basis of syphilis and its differential diagnosis. The work is written as a companion to the author's book on "The Venereal Diseases". Undoubtedly it is brave of Marshall not merely to take this attitude, but also to fling down the gauntlet in the face of critics, reviewers and other readers in the first seven lines of the book, for much water has passed under the bridges of the Seine since this view was first proposed, and many dermatologists in Britain—while not denying that the study of a systemic disease having protean manifestations has some importance—would regard the challenge as too demodet to consider seriously.

Inevitably Marshall has experienced the same difficulty in the arrangement of his book that has haunted the writers of all small manuals of dermatology. This difficulty arises from the lack of an adequate classification of skin diseases, and leads to such anomalies as the chapter on bacillary infections in the book at present under review, wherein there is a complete omission of any reference to tuberculous diseases of the skin. In Marshall's book the reader, having completed a brief study of leprosy, has to peruse some fifty-five pages concerning syphilis before returning to the maladies caused by that bacillus to which Koch gave his name, and which—for the British dermatologist—are of greater interest and much greater difficulty than lues.

The book is fully illustrated; but unfortunately—probably owing to difficulties in the supply of suitable paper—some of the illustrations are not very clear. The text of the work is concise, the author's approach to the subject is dogmatic; but in many instances the instructions concerning treatment are too brief. It is pleasant to find a chapter on the infectious fevers wherein is given a summary for guidance in diagnosis.

Contrary to the statement made on the dust-cover, the whole field of dermatology is not considered (in fact, to attempt to cajole the prospective purchaser with such a statement is quite unwarrantable); but the book has cost the author very many hours of laborious work, and undoubtedly he will be a churlish reader who does not find many matters of value and interest in it.

R. M. B. MACKENNA