

Overzicht van de Physiologie van den Mensch, door Prof. Dr. J. Jongbloed. Uitgegeven bij N.V. A. Oosthoek's Uitgevers-Maatschappij te Utrecht. 1946. 296 blz., geb., Prijs f 12,—.

Welke inconvenienten de praktische studie der tandheelkunde door nijpend gebrek aan technische outillage en instrumentarium in dit na-oorlogsche tijdsgewricht ook mogen aankleven, ten aanzien van de wetenschappelijke voorbereiding zijn er aanwinsten, die tot voldoening kunnen stemmen. Na het leerboek der ontleedkunde van Prof. van den Broek en de Beginselen der algemeene bacteriologie van Prof. Julius heeft wederom een der hoogleraren aan de Utrechtsche Universiteit, die door zijn onderwijs aan de opleiding der aanstaande tandartsen deel heeft, zich ertoe gezet om de leerstof, die hij daarvoor met betrekking tot de physiologie noodzakelijk acht, in boekvorm te doen verschijnen. Dat de auteur zijn leerlingen daarmede een belangrijken dienst bewezen heeft behoeft wel geen betoog. Naarstig bijgehouden aantekeningen tijdens de colleges, hoe waardevol ook als aanvulling, zijn niet anders dan een surrogaat voor een studiewerk van den docent zelve, dat naar verwacht kan worden alles bevat wat deze voor de kennis en het inzicht van zijn toehoorders fundamenteel acht. Aldus wordt een hechte basis gelegd, waarop degene, die in dit onderdeel zijner medische voorbereiding dieper wil doordringen, voort kan bouwen. Zoo althans moet, naar het den lezer wil voorkomen, deze, voor den tandheekkundigen student belangrijke verschijning, worden aanvaard. De auteur noemt zijn didactische pennevrucht een overzicht, „zelfs niet meer dan een globaal overzicht”, er op gericht „een algemeen kijk op het geheel der levensverrichtingen te geven”. Aldus de doelstelling in het voorwoord omschreven.

Dat de auteur in het verschaffen van dien algemeen kijk geslaagd is, zal de geïnteresseerde lezer bij bestudeering van den inhoud volmondig beamen, want de lectuur, eenmaal begonnen, houdt de aandacht gespannen als bij de verschillende hoofdstukken van een boeienden roman. De schrijver heeft — bescheidenlijk allicht — zijn „overzicht” meer een lees- dan een leerboek genoemd. In hoeverre deze kenschetsing het ware karakter aanduidt moge hier in het midden gelaten worden, feit is dat het ook daarvoor alle goede hoedanigheden bezit. In den schijnbaar vereenvoudigden opzet, waarin de heldere stijl en overzichtelijke compositie als het ware schuil gaan, „boeit” het van het begin tot het einde en zoo zullen ook zij, die hun allerlei lacunes bezittende kennis op dit wetenschappelijke terrein willen aanvullen, goed doen hun bibliotheek met dit „leesboek” te verrijken. Intusschen kan men de tandheekkundige leerlingen van Prof. Jongbloed gelukkig prijzen dat deze het werk ter hand heeft genomen om hen aldus ook in geschrifte toe te rusten met het materiaal, dat zij voor het verwerven van de voor hen onmisbaar geachte kennis aangaande de leer der levensverrichtingen noodig hebben. Wellicht komt, naar men mag hopen, in een niet al te verre toekomst ook de physiologische chemie aan de beurt om op gelijke wijze behandeld te worden.

De uitgeefster heeft voor een alleszins aantrekkelijke typografische uitvoering en aankleding, gemeten met na-oorlogschen maatstaf, zorg gedragen. De prijs kan eveneens de vergelijking met die van willekeurige andere uitgaven uitstekend doorstaan.

B.

Rede

ter gelegenheid van de officieele opening van de cursussen der „Ivory Cross Expedition” uitgesproken door Jhr. Mr. C. J. A. de Ranitz, Hoofd van de Afd. Hooger Onderwijs en Wetenschappen van het Ministerie van O. K. en W.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Minister of Education, Arts and Sciences, who to his regret is prevented from being present here owing to official duties.

I have pleasure in extending the most hearty welcome to the participants in the Ivory Cross Expedition.

Already during the time in which the Netherlands were once occupied territory, in America especially by Dr. Herbert Loeb, plans were made to send a group of outstanding dentists to the Netherlands in order to inform their Netherlands colleagues about the progress of dentistry in America during the past years. Already in 1943 the plan was put before Dr. Bolkesteyn, who was then Minister and at the same time Dr. Loeb was greatly assisted by professors of the University of Pennsylvania. Further the Netherlands Embassy at Washington was continuously kept posted up to that.

Already in June 1945 (so only one month after the liberation of our country) the Ministry of Education, Arts and Sciences could be informed of the initiative of this American Dental Expedition. In the Netherlands things were rather disordered at the Ministeris but nevertheless the definite agreement of the Netherlands Government could be communicated in the autumn to those, who had taken the initiative, through the diplomatic channels.

As far as I am aware the Ivory Cross Expedition is the first American scientific relief action, which was prepared and which was offered to the Netherlands authorities with the least possible delay.

It must be a great satisfaction to Dr. Herbert Loeb now, that the expedition could start at the date already fixed at that time and that now the Netherlands Government and the Netherlands dentists can expectantly and with great interest and gratitude welcome the members of the American Expedition.

I doubt whether Dr. Loeb, when immediately after the capitulation on the 15th of May 1940 he left IJmuiden in a small fishing boat, thought it possible, that his return to his native-country would be such a pleasant one. The arrival of the gentlemen is very welcome to us. In the first place, because during and after the war the admiration for the American people and the appreciation of the American science have very much increased in this country. We give evidence of this, your Excellency, in the numerous scientific contacts, we have entered into with America since May 1945.

I need only mention our scientific Ambassador Prof. Vening Meinesz here.

These contacts are at the same time resulting from an urgent need of the Netherlands: in five years of complete isolation and standstill in the cultural field we could not follow the great progress of science, especially on the transatlantic continent. We have got behind and must make up for these arrears as soon as possible, when we are to regain our former reputation in the domain of science and with this our national prosperity.

As we guard the dentistry, which is of such paramount importance for the public health, we can now learn quite a lot of things from America.

This leads me to a third factor, which for us is somewhat painful. Already before the war there was not attached much value to dentistry as a science in this country. At our universities it occupied and still occupies not the place, which corresponds to its importance.

Only at the Utrecht university a dental-training-course is held, which, it is true, is of rather a high standing, but which has not properly developed because it is not

looked upon as university education, and does not lead to a doctor's degree. Moreover the Utrecht Dental Institute is continuously overcrowded, and it does not fail to produce its effect, that the monopolistic training there does not experience the promoting and stimulating influence of competition elsewhere.

A long time before the war already plans were made for improvement in this connection.

The former Minister of Education has immediately recognised that now the reorganisation of the dental education has to take place.

His Excellency entrusted me, as Head of the Ministry's Department of University Education and Sciences and in my capacity of a Chairman of a Ministerial Committee composed of members coming from different fields, with the preparation of the reorganisation. In the report published in April last the committee has communicated conclusions which often can be mentioned radical. The starting point is that the dental education should have a better scientific base in this country. Therefore we shall have to pay more attention to the propaedeutical examinations and the education will have to be arranged in accordance with the medical study as per the schemem that, via university examinations can lead to a doctor's degree. Further the position of the dental teachers will have to be improved, among other things by establishing professorships — sofar there were only dental lectorships — by which the importance of dentistry as an independent science is.

It is a question whether the most thoroughgoing conclusion of the committee, viz. the establishment of a separate faculty of dentistry beside the medical faculty will be accepted by the Government. A Government committee for the reorganisation of the university education discusses the problem of the organic grouping of the universities. There are of course some objections against yielding to the pressure also of the other domains of science to extend the number of faculties; here I think of the political and social sciences. Anyhow I think the question that whether for dentistry and other branches of science a separate faculty or at any case a division of an existing faculty or a university department will be formed, is not of essential importance, if, however, the scientific and university value of the dental education is recognised and reorganised.

Finally my committee has propagated the necessity of extending the training of dentists to two other universities. For this the State University at Groningen has been designated and appeals to the Municipal University of Amsterdam, of which you, Mr. Rector Magnificus, are offering hospitality to us. May also the Municipal Authorities, whom I am pleased to see represented here, give a fact to this appeal.

It now lies with the Netherlands First and Second Chamber to decide to bring our dental training and science on an international level.

I now have come at the end of my introductory words, I apologise for having been long. I hope you will not, like Pallas Athena to Telemachos sigh: *ποιον σερς πως ῥυγεν ἔρκος ὕδοντων* („What word escaped the row of your teeth?“), but that you will approve of my showing to you how much dentistry lies in the centre of our interest and how welcome the American team is to us.

On behalf of the Netherlands Government I open herewith the activities of the Ivory Cross Expedition.