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Book Notices

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A New Angle on Infectious Disease

This is a work of much interest to the biologist or to anyone with some biological training. It was written by a medical man but from the biological point of view instead of that of pure medicine. It is authoritative but not too technical. As is indicated from the title the departure is quite intentional. Infectious diseases are understood to be of bacterial, virus and protozoan origins. The approach made by the author is that disease is an ecological problem and may be so studied. Consideration is given to natural defenses, acquired immunities, epidemics, and principles of control and these make up a major portion of the book. A special chapter is devoted to diphtheria, tuberculosis, influenza, plague, cholera, malaria, and yellow fever. The final chapter on "New Diseases and the Outlook for the Future" was written before the outbreak of the present war. Dr. Burnet, the author, is Assistant Director of the Walter and Ellen Hall Institute in Melbourne, Australia.