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CURARE : ITS HISTORY, NATURE, AND CLINICAL USE.

A. R. MCINTYRE, Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Medicine,
The University of Nebraska. 240 pp., illust. \$5.00. The University of Chicago
Press, Chicago. 1947.

The recent widespread increase in the use of curare in clinical medicine has made the production of this book both interesting and extremely valuable. It is particularly fitting that the first volume adequately to tell the whole story of curare should be from the pen of Professor McIntyre, whose brilliant laboratory work made possible the standardization and safety of modern curare preparations. The author states that "this book attempts to bring together the stories of the "early explorers; the accounts of the botanists, whose search for the many and "elusive plants used in the fabrication of curare is by no means concluded; the "early investigations of the poisons on animals; the chemical examinations of "curares, which during the last ten years has progressed rapidly; and modern "physiological and pharmacological research, culminating in the present extensive "clinical use of the drug." This purpose has been so faithfully carried out that the book should be an almost obligatory pre-requisite for any who wish to experiment with curare, or to use it clinically. The author emphasizes that even to-day much remains to be learned about this fabulous drug. This book, therefore, may be considered as a very valuable "progress report" on a subject still under active investigation. The use of curare as a muscle relaxant in patients under anaesthesia is perhaps the most widespread clinical application of the drug, and Canadian doctors have had no small part in the pioneer work in this field. This volume is, therefore, particularly recommended to anaesthetists.