

An Introduction to the Study of the Diseases of the Nervous System. By THOMAS GRAINGER STEWART, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., &c. Edinburgh; Bell and Bradfute, 1884.
Diseases of the Spinal Cord. By BYROM BRAMWELL, M.D.—Second Edition. Edinburgh: Pentland, 1884.

THE clinical study of nerve disease and disorder has come to be more and more arduous with advancing knowledge; and it is doubtless true that some guide is requisite for those who are beginning to investigate such cases, and to search for causes among the multifarious abnormalities which come under their observation. There is certainly room for such a book as that before us, which tells the student what to look for in cases of supposed nervous disease, and how to look for it. It is well, especially in this department of medicine, that a clear idea should be gained of what the symptoms are which point to nerve disease, and what the known or probable causes of such symptoms may be, before the so-called "diseases" of an established nosology are each of them separately studied. In such a book as this, originality is of course not to be looked for, nor would it be, indeed, desirable; and it is equally impossible in the space of the volume for acknowledgment to be made of the various thoughts and illustrations taken from other authors. It is in the main a compilation. But Professor Stewart has done well the work he has undertaken, especially in the part relating to symptomatology. The first three lectures on the medical anatomy of the nervous system would be of greater value as lectures, clearly illustrated, than they are for perusal by the reader; one at least of the diagrams is unintelligible in its minuteness. The altered symptoms, however, occurring in disorder of the various departments of the nervous system are very clearly set forth, and the description is frequently accompanied by excellent plates. The book, as a whole, is carefully written; and will doubtless be widely used by those to whom ampler volumes are inaccessible.

Dr. Bramwell's book well deserves the success it has already met with. Translations into German, French and Russian, and a second English edition reached within two years and a half of its first publication, show how keenly it has been appreciated by the students and practitioners for whom it is intended. The characteristic feature of the work is the fulness and perfection attained in the illustrations. In this edition the number of the beautiful chromolithographs and drawings representing the normal and pathological structure of the cord has been still further enlarged; and a chapter added on "Concussion;" whilst the text bears the evidence of careful revision throughout.

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