ing preparation or picture of, that the patient feels, and that it is the business of your life to help him to feel less. The true use of morbid anatomy is to teach physiology, not the art of medicine; and it is the art of medicine which must be the prime object of your work in the hospital wards."—p. 251.

But we confess that we cannot see any *novelty* either in the author's chief doctrine or in his practice. What has been called by the Germans the theory of the "subjectivity of disease," may be said to have come into active operation through the teaching of Paracelsus; and it continued to rule the schools until the rise of the modern physiology. Since then, however, the oracles of the latter have repeatedly urged upon pathologists that disease is nothing superadded to health, but simply a perversion of the ordinary forces of the organism. A reaction, nevertheless, was attempted in Germany soon after the promulgation of the "cell theory," an account of which may be found in the introduction to Sobernheim's "Handbuch der Practischen Arzneimittellehre." The old aphorism, "We no sooner begin to live than we begin to die," includes the spirit of the doctrine upon which our author lays so much stress. As regards the practice inculcated, also, we cannot see that it differs in its nature from that adopted by our safest and most practical physicians of the school which is rather laughed at by Dr. Chambers, namely, the school of Eclecticism. Now we regard our author's entire safety in practice, if not entire soundness in theory, as springing from this very eclecticism. He no doubt thinks his practice is of a scientific deductive kind, and has here ingeniously laboured to prove how it was foreshadowed. We, on the contrary, believe it to be mainly empirical (we use the term in its classic, and not popular, sense) and inductive; and hence its value. We must believe that such men as Alison, Graves, Watson, Latham, Stokes, Christison, Williams, Roots, Bright, Corrigan, &c., taught, or yet teach, a therapeia exactly analogous—speaking generally of course—to that brought forward by our author. True, they may not have sought to justify its propriety exactly in the same *à priori* manner, or in the words of Dr. Chambers; but have preferred to record their trust in it as based rather upon their own and the recorded experience of others. But we think we hear Dr. Chambers say, "Very good; but what was their principle of action? Here is my principle as well as my experience; now, what is theirs?" Their principle we believe to have been, or to be, much the same as Dr. Chambers' so far as their recourse to a freely supporting and restorative therapeia is concerned. So far as relates to the use of a therapeia, which we regard as misnamed when called supporting and restorative, their principle was that of an eclectic empiricism; and this we also believe to be at the bottom the author's. Both use one and the other, and both, we think, for the same reasons. Of course Dr. Chambers would deny this, and point to his sole guidance, under all circumstances, in the *à priori* necessity for "the renewal of life." However, be this as it may, whilst we cannot allow here any claim for novelty and special proprietorship in common-sense medicine, we most willingly admit that Dr. Chambers proves himself to be a very good teacher of the healing art. We cannot say that we altogether admire the style he has chosen to adopt upon the present occasion. To students, however, who find much of our medical literature dull reading, the change to Dr. Chambers' may be enlivening and agreeable.

Physiology, and its Aid to the Study and Treatment of Disease.

By EDWARD DILLON MAPOTHER, M.D., Fellow and Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, &c. 150 Illustrations, Examination Papers, and a Glossary of Medical Terms. pp. 496. London: Longmans.

THE title of this little work does not truly indicate the nature of the latter. This is a pity, because the book itself will be found, in its way, a useful one. Dr. Mapother's work forms a manual of the facts of physiology, such as may be gleaned and compressed from the larger treatises of Carpenter, Todd and Bowman, and Kirkes. To these is added a sketch of the ele-

mentary principles of pathology. The work is abundantly illustrated, and there can be little doubt of its being found a good refresher to the memory by the students of Dublin preparing for their examination; for this purpose we presume its author, a teacher of anatomy, really intended it.

The Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry. By JOHN E. BOWMAN, F.C.S. Edited by C. L. BLOXAM. Fourth Edition. Churchill.

To this edition various additions have been made, particularly in the analysis of urine, the examination of the solid excrements, and the detection of poisons.

A WEEK'S SURGICAL EXPERIENCE AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Thinking it may interest some of the readers of THE LANCET, I venture to send you a list of surgical cases admitted into Guy's Hospital from the 29th of October to the 4th of November, under the care of Mr. Poland, surgeon for the week. The total number of cases is not great, but I do not recollect a week in which there were so many of an interesting character.

Compound fracture of cranium and bones of face, with laceration of brain, caused by a circular saw; four burns, two being very extensive, and the others chiefly confined to the thighs and legs; three compound fractures of the tibia, in one of which amputation above the knee was performed; wound of hand, in which a large branch of artery was tied; fractured femur; compound fractured femur; compound fractured metatarsal bones; cut-throat, the crico-thyroid membrane being divided; two cases of retention of urine; strangulated femoral hernia (operation); compound fractured metacarpal bones; contused wound of leg; two cases of carbuncle; diffused popliteal aneurism, in which the femoral artery was ligatured; chronic arachnitis; aneurism of the external carotid, in which the common carotid was tied; five cases of injury or disease of the knee-joint, and one of the hip.

There are also at the present time under the care of the same surgeon, among others of no importance, the following cases, which possess some degree of interest:—

Lacerated wound of the thigh, extending from the trochanter to two inches below the knee; malignant disease of the antrum, in which excision of the upper jaw has been performed; a case in which a loose cartilage has been removed from the knee; epithelioma of the lip; epithelioma of the thigh, in a chimney-sweep; calculus vesicæ; necrosis of humerus; fungus testis; chronic abscess connected with the ilium; compound fracture of the thigh; a fibro-plastic tumour attached to the eleventh and twelfth ribs; club-foot; sloughing of the wrists and ankles, following fever; compound fracture of the humerus, extending into the elbow-joint; fracture of the neck of the humerus, with partial dislocation; fracture of spine; gangrene of foot; amputation of leg; mollities ossium, with fracture through the head of the tibia; exostosis of the lower end of the femur.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

W. LEONARD CASS, M.R.C.S. Eng.,

Guy's Hospital, Nov. 1562.

Dresser to Mr. Poland.

THE HEALTH OF THE NAVY.—The Medical Director of the Navy has just issued a Blue-book on the health of the Navy, compiled by Dr. Bryson, Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets. In summing up the returns from the different stations for the year 1859, Dr. Bryson says:—"The total number of men daily inefficient through disease, wounds, and injuries, may be thus stated: The total mean force of the year has been estimated at 52,825 of all ranks and ratings; the total number of days sickness amounts to 1,145,529; dividing, therefore, the latter by the days in the year, the quotient shows the number of persons daily inefficient or on the sick list, amounting to 3,138, certainly a most serious reduction on the total force. These results, carefully condensed from a large mass of returns, though they may appear simple and of minor importance in service point of view, nevertheless show how necessary it is to husband well the health and strength of those on whose efficiency depends not only the safety of the ships in which they sail, but it may be the safety and honour of the country."