acquired a library which may be considered a *multum in parvo* of medical literature. Although the volumes are very bulky they are not unwieldy, and their clear print and handsome appearance places them far above most works of an encyclopædic nature.

F. R. P.

THE DECENNIAL PUBLICATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. A Description of the Brains and Spinal Cords of Two Brothers Dead of Hereditary Ataxia. Cases XVIII. and XX. of the Series in the Family Described by Dr. Sanger Brown; with a Clinical Introduction by Dr. Sanger Brown. By LEWELLYS F. BARKER, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy. Printed from Volume X. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1903.

THE rare and valuable material used as a basis of study for the present monograph is described and worked up with the greatest care and precision. The text is excellently and very elaborately illustrated. Dr. Brown in the clinical introduction gives a résumé of the symptomatology of hereditary ataxia, to which is added a family tree of the cases described by him. A careful clinical report of the two fatal cases follows.

The main portion of the monograph is given up to a study made by Dr. Barker of the topography of the brain and microscopic lesions of the brains and cords of the two brothers. The brains and cords of both cases were relatively small, the cords, medulla, and pons in each case looking smaller in proportion than the cerebrum. The various sulci and gyri showed no deviation from the normal type which could be regarded as standing in relation to the disease from which the family suffered.

The microscopic study revealed degenerations of one system of exogenous fibres of the posterior funiculus (apparently corresponding to the third fetal system of Trepinski), the dorsal nucleus of Clark, the direct cerebellar tract of Flechsig in the lateral funiculus, and its continuation in the restiform body. In addition there was some involvement of the dentate nucleus of the cerebellum and the brachium conjunctivum, and probably also of the inferior olivary nucleus of the medulla oblongata. Corresponding to the degeneration of the white matter of the spinal cord there was an increase in the glia tissue. These lesions correspond almost exactly with what Dr. Adolf Meyer found in another instance from the family which he studied. The degenerations in the posterior funiculus should probably be regarded as systemic. Barker believes that they involve only certain of the stem fibres and collaterals of the intramedullary continuation of the posterior roots, namely, those corresponding to one period of medullation in the embryo.

W. T. L.