usually stupid, ignorant, and devoid of every qualification which would make them useful in the sick-room. It is difficult to conceive of a class of persons whose services in a community are better appreciated than a well-trained and efficient nurse.

It is not easy, and perhaps impossible, for physicians in rural districts to educate nurses, or at least to give them that kind of education which is required for a good nurse. We will have to look to training schools for them. Their services will be remunerated as well, and possibly better, than the district school teacher, while the position is not more exacting, nor the duties more arduous.

At the present time, it is evident that the country requires more nurses, and less doctors, more training schools for nurses, and less diploma-mills for grinding out doctors.

J. F. JENKINS, M.D.

TECUMSEH, MICH.

FŒTID AND SWEATING FEET.

RED OAK, IOWA, Oct. 25, 1883.

Dear Editor:—In the AMERICAN MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 13, p. 428, among the "Medical Progress" articles, there is one for "Relief of Fœtid Sweating Feet by Subnitrate of Bismuth," a remedy which I have never tried, but will inclose a formula that with the correct observation of the instructions has been very certain of success in all the cases on which I know of its being tried:

R Aluminii et Ammo. Exic., grs. 2

Acidi Boracici..... " 2

Aquæ Simp. or Rosæ..... " 35

Mix. Sig.: Apply with soft sponge without rubbing, just as soon as the shoes and stockings are removed, while the feet are yet moist. This is quite necessary, as also the care not to rub.

Let this be repeated every two or three days, in the evening, and I have yet to know of its failure to check the profuse sweating or to lessen the fœtid odor. Respectfully,

A. M. VAIL, M.D.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE DISEASES OF MEN.

(1) PRACTICAL CLINICAL LESSONS ON SYPHILIS AND THE GENITO-URINARY DISEASES. By Fessenden N. Otis, M.D., Clinical Professor in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. New York: Surgeon to Charity Hospital, etc., New York. Bermingham & Co., 1883; pp. 584.

(2) SEXUAL IMPOTENCE IN THE MALE. By Wm. A. Hammond, M.D., Professor of the Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System, New York Post Graduate Medical School, etc. New York: Bermingham & Co., 1883; pp. 274.

(1) Professor Otis' book is a volume of the recorded experience of a wide awake observer, super-added to and balanced by as candid a *resume* of our bulky venereal literature as has yet been published. The excellence of this work is due in no small degree to the clear-headed, and, if the term is permis-

sible, the *business-like* way in which the author attacks the vexatious problems in pathology, hygiene, and therapeutics, constantly presented by the clinical aspects of syphilis and gonorrhœa. In its series of clinical lessons, as the chapters are modestly styled, this work really embraces a study of the genito-urinary diseases more exhaustive and analytic than any of the standard treatises. On the other hand, it is not so painfully and artificially "systematic" as to leave the impression that the author had been too ambitious to produce a great work, which should become authoritative and final. Often it appears that the outcome of such ambitious writing is a book wherein clinical facts are presented obscurely, wrongly colored, *theoretish*. Prof. Otis shuns this fault. The subject of syphilis occupies the entire thirty chapters comprising Part I., or about one-half the book. Part II. is a treatise on gonorrhœa and its *sequelæ*. It is an admirable exposition of the latest knowledge on the subject, containing a summary of the views and practices of various modern authorities, and the writer's own estimate of the relative importance of each.

It is particularly to be commended in the constant references which are made to a variety of different opinions, as in the case of the value of "specific" treatment in clap; that more is given the reader than a barren catalogue of opposing or differing practices from which to select. We have the satisfaction of finding, in connection with each subject discussed, a very careful analysis of all available information to determine the vital question, *which* theory, *which* treatment deserves the most credit? The work is more valuable as an authority than Sir Henry Thompson's, not merely because it is later, but because it is also fairer and more exhaustive.

(2.) In dealing with delicate topics it is the habit of some writers to make an apology to the reader for the introduction of necessary but unsavory facts and records. With persons who have strong stomachs this is superfluous, but possibly all of us feel the subtle flattery conveyed in such an apology and prefer to be thus propitiated before any very nauseating recital of moral perversion or degradation.

We receive no such consideration at the hands of Prof. Hammond in his work on Sexual Impotence in the Male. It ought not, perhaps, to be laid as a fault against a writer that his style is peculiarly sketchy and entertaining. Yet it may possibly be asked as a question of good taste whether a certain class of subjects should not be handled with more of reserve and soberness than we find in the pages of this book. The numerous cases cited throughout the work necessarily partake of the nature of tales, and although their history and treatment is carefully detailed, yet enough adventitious coloring is worked into the description of each case to make it highly entertaining reading to non-medical readers. This fact has been accidentally illustrated more than once in the brief time the book has lain upon the reviewer's table.

Aside from this question of good taste, the work is an extremely valuable one—covering a ground hitherto partially explored, and covering it satisfactorily and clearly. Those important factors in man-