Inflammation is a defensive act of the mucous membrane, and its intensity will depend upon the energy exhibited by the organism to attain the destruction of the infective agents, and the time necessary to accomplish it. If these agents reach the sub-mucous layer, the reaction of this will cause a phlegmonous inflammation, terminating in suppuration when the leucocytes succumb in too great number. Under the influence of many conditions destruction of the tissues will become greater, and a sphacelus or gangrene will result, with general intoxication. The microbes may not all be destroyed *in situ*, but some may penetrate the circulation, arriving at distant places, where resistance is slight from some old trouble. Just as a primary angina may lead to general infection, the latter may give rise to a secondary angina of which Kannenberg, Landouzy, Dubousquet-Laborderie, and Joal have given examples. The cases recorded by Froelich are typical.

We have not space to follow the author further in these interesting studies. We have cited enough to show that M. Ruault has contributed a volume which is imbued with the scientific spirit, and which is at once a learned and a practical contribution to the literature of diseases of the pharynx. In this volume the old lines of book-making are abandoned, and a serious and, so far as it can be, successful effort is made to supply a basis of bacterio-pathology to the subject. The result is a work which no physician can afford to ignore.

R. Norris Wolfenden.

Transactions of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association. New York: Appleton & Co., 1892.

THIS volume, which contains seventeen papers, published in full, as presented by various members of the Association at the annual meeting held in Washington in 1891, bears ample testimony to the high scientific standard of the work done by this Association, which is the *doyen* of all similar associations, and must always, so long as it maintains its present high standard, be the model of what similar societies should endeavour to attain to. This particular volume bears a melancholy interest from the fact that therein is printed, as an appendix, the inaugural thesis of the late Dr. Frank H. Potter, entitled "Cystoma of the Nasal Passages, with Report of a Case," and this is followed by a sympathetic obituary notice of this talented young laryngologist. It is unnecessary to refer in detail to the work recorded in this volume, since all has received notice previously in this Journal. We may be allowed to congratulate the Association upon its flourishing condition.

R. Norris Wolfenden.

Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences. Edited by Dr. Sajous. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis, 1892.

THIS colossal work is well known, and that it has reached its fifth year of publication, with no falling off from the standard of excellence originally attained, is a tribute to the untiring and immense zeal of Dr. Sajous and his army of co-editors and collaborators, and to the great enterprise of the publishers. It is certainly one of the most magnificent scientific

literary enterprises of the century, and fully deserves the success which we believe has been accorded to it. We may, however, be permitted to make one suggestion. We have often heard medical men say that they would be glad to be able to purchase the one volume which they require if they could only do so without being saddled with the other four volumes. This is especially the case with the specialist, who perhaps would wish to have the one volume relating to his specialty, and to whom the remaining volumes of the publication, owing to want of reading leisure, are but as literary curiosities on his library shelves. If the publishers saw their way to separating the work in this fashion, we believe that they would gain an increased number of subscribers, in this country at least.

R. Norris Wolfenden.

Anæsthetics: Their Uses and Administration. By DUDLEY WILMOT BUXTON, M.D., B.S. Second Edition. H. K. Lewis, 1892.

IN this second edition of Dr. Buxton's little work the greater part of the book has been recast, and a good deal of matter has been rewritten, which considerably enhances its value. It is a safe guide to the subject with which it deals, and is certainly a most useful book for the senior student, thoroughly practical, as indeed we should expect from a man of Dr. Buxton's experience in anæsthetics. We note that he prefers chloroform for operations about the mouth, jaws, and respiratory tract, because narcosis is deeper and more prolonged, its vapour is not easily ignited, and it can be conveniently given through the nose. He prefers rectal etherization as more convenient for the operator and more effectual in the anæsthesia produced, in removal of the tongue, jaws, staphyloraphy, and especially for excision of the larynx. While considering favourably the use of ether in operations for post-nasal growths, chloroform possesses the disadvantage that the patient remains longer under its influence, and so it is less easy to avoid blood entering the air passages. When the use of chloroform is undesirable he finds the A. C. E. mixture in succession to gas answer fairly well. It does not cause so much hæmorrhage as ether, and the patient may if necessary be again and again anæsthetized, after emptying his mouth of blood, until the operation is complete. Though producing much congestion and increasing hæmorrhage in these operations, if properly managed ether answers very well in these cases. The various anæsthetics, local and general, are passed under review, and cocaine comes in for a full share of attention. *R. Norris Wolfenden.*