We congratulate the translators on the satisfactory manner in which they have performed their work, and beg leave to express a hope that the success of this venture may be such as to induce them to give an English dress to the succeeding series of lectures by the same author on ophthalmological subjects. Of text-books we have enough and to spare, but exhaustive monographs like these lectures of Prof. Mauthner are at the present time an absolute necessity, alike to student and practitioner.

S. M. B.

ART. XXX.—*Handbuch der Historisch-Geographischen Pathologie.* Von Dr. AUGUST HIRSCH, Prof. der Medicin in Berlin. Zweite Vollständig neue Bearbeitung. Erste Abtheilung. *Die Allgemeinen Acuten Infectiouskrankheiten.* 8vo. S. 481. Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke, 1881.

Handbook of Historico-Geographical Pathology. By Dr. AUGUST HIRSCH, Professor of Medicine in Berlin. Second edition, entirely rewritten. First Part. *The Acute Infectious Disease*, etc.

THE study of diseases, with special references to their distribution over time and the earth's surface, possesses interest not merely for the scholars in the profession, but also for the busy practitioner of medicine, since for the intelligent management of a disease it is necessary for him to know where, when, and under what circumstances it first made its appearance; what conditions seem to favour its repeated outbreaks; what are the habits of the people and the geological formation of the country where it most frequently occurs; what influences promote its diffusion, and, if contagious, upon what does this property depend. These and numerous similar questions, while they had not been allowed to pass entirely without notice by authors, had never been satisfactorily answered before the appearance of the first edition of Dr. Hirsch's work twenty-five years ago. Since then there have been many other workers in this field, the result of whose labours has been a vast addition to our knowledge of the etiology of disease. Indeed, as the author says, we know more at the present day of the diseases of remote parts of the earth than was known in the early part of this century of those of the highly civilized nations of Europe or of this country.

The work, when finished, will consist of three volumes. This volume is made up of articles on the acute infectious diseases; the second will be devoted to the discussion of the chronic infectious diseases and constitutional diseases; and the third to that of organic diseases.

The general plan of the work will perhaps be made most clear to our readers by making for them a brief abstract of a chapter on an important disease, as, for instance, that on the plague:—

The author first traces the history of this disease from the time when we have the first authentic accounts of its ravages down to the present day. He finds in the *Collectanea*, of Oribasius, references to the writings of Rufus, which establish beyond a doubt the fact that the plague existed as an epidemic disease in Libya, Syria, and Egypt two or three centuries before our era, and that it also occurred in those countries at about the time of the birth of Christ, and for a century afterwards; but it would seem

not to have appeared again until the middle of the sixth century, when it extended for the first time to the continent of Europe, where it committed great ravages, and received, in consequence of the malignancy of some of its symptoms, the name of Black Death. It maintained a firm footing in Europe, breaking out from time to time, and causing, especially during the Middle Ages, great loss of life, until the year 1841, when, if we except a slight outbreak in Astrachan, it disappeared finally. In studying the history of the various epidemics which have occurred in Europe, the author has satisfied himself that Turkey has always been the avenue by which the disease has found its way to the continent.

We have, of course, less reliable accounts of the epidemics of this disease which have occurred in Africa and Asia. In Africa, it would appear always to have occurred first in Egypt, and to have extended from that country to the States of Barbary. On the other hand, it seems never to have spread to Nubia. In Asia, it is probable that there are few countries that have not been visited, at some time or other, by the plague, and among these Syria has generally suffered severely from it. Indeed, until recently this country was looked upon as the starting-point of the disease. From discoveries and investigations which have been made during the past few years, the author is inclined to think that the disease has existed in the mountainous districts of India for centuries, and that we must regard this country as its veritable home.

The author next proceeds to consider the various conditions which have been thought to favour the occurrence of the plague, and shows, by references to the recent reports of Indian physicians, that the countries of the tropical zone have by no means enjoyed the immunity from the disease which has been until very lately generally conceded to them. Extreme heat would appear, however, to exert a destructive influence upon the cause of the disease, and in Egypt epidemics are found generally to have commenced in the fall and to have ceased in the spring, but to this rule there have been a few exceptions. The author also assigns to dampness of the atmosphere very little influence in the propagation of the disease. In Egypt, it has not always prevailed most extensively in those years in which the overflow of the Nile and the consequent saturation of the ground with moisture have been most complete. He shows, also, that the disease may occur in a mountainous region as well as in a low-lying plain, and that it has been equally virulent in countries of the most dissimilar geological formation.

Misery, filth, and neglect of all the laws of hygiene appear to be the influences, which, if they do not cause the disease, certainly favour its spread, and those races which habitually set these laws at defiance are those which suffer most during the prevalence of an epidemic. Otherwise, there does not seem to be any difference in the susceptibility of the different races to the disease.

Dr. Hirsch evidently does not regard the plague as a very highly contagious disease, since he says that physicians and others who simply visit the sick, and do not spend much time in the sick-room, are but rarely affected by it, and doubts whether it is inoculable through the blood and secretions of the sick, or even through pus taken from the glandular swellings. He admits, however, that the disease may be diffused by means of the clothing of the patient, or other fomites. The poison upon which the disease depends is developed, he thinks, outside and not within the individual.

In conclusion he devotes several pages to a description of the disease, and to a comparison of the symptoms of the disease as described by the writers of the Middle Ages, with those presented by the disease as it occurs in India at the present time.

The book is a valuable one to the student of disease, and as such we recommend it most cordially to the profession. J. H. H.

ART. XXXI.—*Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*. Vol. LXIV. 8vo. pp. lxxvii., 324. London: Longmans, Green, Reader, & Dyer, 1881.

THIS volume contains nineteen papers, of which we have, heretofore, analyzed in the JOURNAL seven; to these, therefore, we shall not again direct our reader's attention.

Of the remaining twelve the first is *A Case of Abscess in the Neck which in its course destroyed a large portion of the Carotid Artery, Jugular Vein, and Pneumogastric Nerve*, by Mr. W. S. SAVORY, so far as we know a unique case, as to the character and the amount of the destruction it effected. He relates two other analogous, but less severe cases, in which, respectively, the jugular vein and the femoral artery and vein were destroyed. The chief case, however, was one of a man, æt. 31, who for two years had had a "lump" on the left side of his neck, which, after three days of irritation, suddenly "burst out bleeding." On admission the cavity was at once laid open, and an attempt made to tie the bleeding vessels. This being unsuccessful, it was packed with strips of lint soaked with Monsel's solution. He died four days later. The plate shows clearly the surprising solution of continuity of the vessels and the nerve. It is a matter of fact, not a little surprising, that no disturbance, either of the respiration or of the cerebral circulation, had attended the destruction of the nerve or the artery, due, doubtless, chiefly to the gradual changes produced. In this JOURNAL for April, 1871, Dr. S. W. GROSS published an elaborate paper on "Ulceration of the Jugular Veins," in which he collected a number of cases, which will well repay perusal. PILGER, in the *Deutsch. Zeitsch. für Chirurgie*, 1880, p. 130, also gives a case involving destruction of the nerve.

Amœboid Movements of the Colourless Blood-corpuscles in Leuchæmia, by Dr. JOHN CAVAFY, is the next paper. The patient, a male, æt. 26, died after seven months of illness of leuchæmia, with epistaxis, vomiting, purpuric spots, and enlargement of the lymphatic glands, spleen, and liver. The blood was examined on twelve occasions, the total number of white corpuscles in the specimen being first counted, and then the number of those that exhibited any amœboid movements. Meantime the temperature of the stage was kept at from 93° to 107°. The percentage of the amœboid corpuscles was very small, in spite of the temperature, ranging from only 24 down to 4 per cent. And the progressive diminution of those showing such movements was very noticeable, the first six observations showing a mean of 12 per cent., the last six of only 6 per cent. The conclusions he reaches are that, 1. The great majority of the colourless cells in leuchæmia are dying or dead; 2. Emigration of these dead cells is impossible; 3. The formation of thrombi is favoured; and 4, this absence of amœboid move-