for there are plenty of occasions in the experience of almost every physician when the use of electricity is indicated above all things else. Until such instruction is obtainable, books like this must hold the first place in imparting information upon this very important subject.

A. F. C.

CLINICAL LECTURES ON VARICOSE VEINS OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

By WILLIAM H. BENNETT, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, etc., London. Svo., pp. 93. With three plates. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1889.

THIS small work is divided into four parts, each consisting of a lecture, of which all but the third have already appeared in the *Lancet*. Lecture I. embraces deductions from statistics of 574 cases of varicose veins of the lower extremity treated at St. George's Hospital, London, and terminates with a summary of "probable causes." The single, perhaps, novel point brought out in this chapter is the much larger proportion of cases presenting in males than in females, if pregnancy as a causative factor is eliminated.

Lecture II. deals with (a) diagnosis in the incipient stages and (b) with the symptoms, mode of formation, and significance of circumscribed varix at the saphenous opening. (a) Diagnosis of late stages is, of course, palpable, but could we foretell the advent of this always distressing condition, treatment could be thereupon begun and would, most likely, prove valuable in proportion to the earliness of its institution. Also, early recognition is valuable in the determination of which veins are primarily and which secondarily become involved—a point of great value should operative interference prove necessary. As the author points out, hospital patients do not usually present themselves until the disease is well advanced, but in private practice, where slight ailments are more attentively regarded, he has had opportunities in large number to study and follow up the pre-varicose condition. This portion of the work is untilled ground so far as text-books are concerned, and will repay careful consideration. (b) Here are pointed out two distinct varieties of saphenous varix, their symptoms, and differential diagnosis; the varieties being accounted for by conclusions from elaborate studies of the normal and anomalous veins and their valves which may be involved. The significance of saphenous varix in relation to general varicosity of the limb is also discussed in theory which the author has been able partially to bear out by experiment and dissection. The anatomical study here presented is valuable in that it represents the result of many special dissections.

Lecture III. describes treatment for mild and uncomplicated cases. The point is taken that exercise should never be abandoned by those suffering from lesser degrees of uncomplicated varicosity, but that the exercise should be of various kinds and not such as to use rhythmically the same muscles to a point of fatigue, as, for instance, in bicycle riding. Constantly varying muscular action is beneficial, for then the same vessels are not continually pressed upon and circulation is promoted, while monotonous exercise tends to increase blood pressure and varicosity by constant back pressure in the same direction. Much infor-

mation is gathered into the chapter regarding the application of bandages, apparatus, etc., but as it includes nothing new of note, it calls for no special consideration here.

Lecture IV. is devoted to a consideration of the radical treatment of varicose veins, and is decidedly the most useful and readable portion of the book. The various subcutaneous operations are very properly relegated to obscurity in modern surgery. Then are described the operations of single or multiple simple ligations, ligations with excision of vein between; and, lastly, bodily excision of large portions of, or the entire diseased plexus, in exaggerated varicosities. The conditions for which the author urges radical operations as a palliative measure are: circumscribed varix of the saphenous opening, and "creeping" thrombus. In many cases of the former he has had a very remarkable subsidence of both tumor and symptoms—a complete cure, in fact—after cutting out a considerable section of the saphena vein at a much lower point, the probable explanation of which result is given in Lecture II.

The object of the proposed operation in cases of creeping thrombus is to separate the constantly extending clot from the proximal patent end of the vessel by dividing and excising a portion of the vein between two ligatures above the thrombus; or, if not extensive, it is proposed to excise the portion of vein containing the entire thrombus, and thus to do away with the undoubted tendency to coagulation which is produced by the presence of the old clot.

The plates appended to the work illustrate, before and after operation, three most successful cases of extensive varix excision and serve to demonstrate how much can be accomplished by radical interference in judiciously selected cases.

The monograph as a whole is well worthy of attention, but particularly so are Lectures II. and IV., which contain many genuine accessions to our knowledge of this poorly understood and rather neglected subject.

PAPERS ON DERMATOLOGY. By E. D. MAPOTHER, M.D., ex-President Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, etc. 8vo, pp. 104. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1889.

In part this book is a reprint of several papers from the author's *Lectures on Skin Diseases*, and also of several papers which have since appeared in journal literature, all having been, however, subjected to more or less revision and amplification. Many of these, it is true, are familiar to the profession, but as they contain much that is suggestive and valuable, will admit of second reading. Of the subjects discussed, "The Vascularity of the Skin and the Communications of Subcutaneous with Visceral Veins," "The Correlations of Eczema and Gout," and "The Treatment of Angioma," are probably the most interesting and important.

H. W. S.