Reviews and Notices of Books.

The Surgeon's Vade Mecum. By ROBERT DRUITT, F.R.C.S. Fifth Edition. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 660. London: Renshaw.

THE former editions of this valuable compendium have been fully noticed in our journal; we shall therefore merely briefly allude to this, the fifth, which has been brought down to the present time, much enlarged and improved, and, as the author observes, with the avoidance of the common vice of books which pass through many editions, and which are apt to increase to an inconvenient size by the addition of new materials. Mr. Drutt has in this edition followed his former arrangements, and divided his work, for the easy reference of the student or practitioner, into four sections. The first consists of affections of the entire constitution, which may be induced by disease or injury of any part; he then treats of the various elementary forms of local disease, and of the changes which disease may effect in the structure of any part of the body; and in the third part he treats of cuts, bruises, stabs, gunshot wounds, poisons, &c.

In the fourth section all the various structures, organs, and regions of the body are treated, beginning with cellular tissue, and skin, muscle, bone, bloodvessels, and the head; there is also a very important chapter on diseases of and operations on the eye.

The last part contains a description of such operations as are not included in the other parts; and here we may allude in particular to that one on the excision of joints and amputations. Here the author forcibly points out the improvements this branch of surgery has undergone within these last few years. One of these, he states, is mainly due to Mr. T. H. Wakley, that of saving as much of a limb as possible; this he calls "Wakley's Operation," and the author says, "that no more of the body should be removed than is absolutely requisite for the removal of disease, and guided by this principle, Mr. T. H. Wakley, in one case of diseased ankle-joint, removed the diseased bones only—that is, the os calcis, astragalus, and malleolar processes of the tibia and fibula, with a small portion of the integuments of the heel, without removing the rest of the foot, as in Mr. Syme's operation." The chapter on hernia is complete, and includes a full description of the operation for femoral rupture promulgated by Mr. Gay.

The appendix contains some new prescriptions available in the treatment of disease; and we notice also in this edition twenty additional engravings, not, as the author observes, mere diagrams invented in the artist's studio, nor yet copies from any other published work, but faithful and original representations of some fact or object in nature. We cannot conclude this brief notice of Mr. Drutt's surgical compendium without observing that it is one of the most valuable books of reference we possess.

The Visiting List for 1851. John Smith, Long Acre.

WE are again glad to have it in our power to speak of this valuable little annual, and, on the part of the practising members of the profession, to tender our thanks to Mr. Smith for the evident care he has bestowed upon the present edition.

The copy submitted to us is in two volumes; one, (for the desk,) containing a variety of practical tables judiciously compressed for hurried reference; and one (for the pocket,) to receive a list of engagements, patients under treatment, &c. Among the tables in the first volume we may direct attention to an article upon the Diagnosis and Appropriate Extemporaneous Treatment of Particular Dislocations and Fractures; to a Topographical Table of England and Wales, descriptive of the localities peculiarly adapted for the temporary residence of invalids affected by special disease; to a *résumé* of fees legally claimable by the profession for services rendered to the public; and to some important pharmaceutical,

toxicological, and medico-legal tables. Volume the second, besides a Midwifery Register, contains one of Dr. Tyler Smith's ingenious instruments for ascertaining at a glance the periods of conception, abortion, miscarriage, and parturition, and is now of a size to suit the most fastidious pocket.

On the whole, we cannot commend too highly the "Physician's, Surgeon's, and General Practitioner's Visiting List for 1851."

Underwood's Medical Appointment Book for 1851. Luntley & Co.

WE cannot praise this book. It is merely a reflection of Mr. Smith's "Visiting List," with nothing else to recommend it.

THE SICKNESS IN THE NEWLY-ACQUIRED TERRITORIES OF BRITISH INDIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to send you the following extract from the *Daily News*, respecting the sickness existing in the newly-acquired territories of India. The statements contained in the report exhibit in a clear light the onerous nature of the duties of medical officers of the army. The care of from one-third to one-half of a regiment of men sick with cholera, with dysentery, and with fever, devolves on them, whilst serving in insalubrious climates; and the illness of each individual must be studied for the double purpose of benefiting the patient, and of contributing to the advance of the science and art of the profession:—

"A good deal of sickness prevails at Peshawur, where, by accounts of the 19th ult., [October,] 1700 men and thirty officers were laid up with fever: one regiment had 400 in hospital. No parades could be held, as those who were well were nearly all engaged on duty! This is a sad state of affairs. At Lahore, about the same date, there were twenty-seven officers and 1481 men on the sick list. Nineteen of the European fusiliers had died during the month, and the corps had, in all, seven officers and 331 men in hospital out of 850, with about 100 convalescents. Since their arrival at Lahore, on the 8th February, the regiment had lost in all sixty-four men. It was believed, however, that the sickness had begun to abate somewhat."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D.

Strood, Rochester, Dec. 7, 1850.

DR. FREDERIC BIRD AND OVARIOTOMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have read, and re-read, the letter of your correspondent, the "Nervous Student," with surprise, and am, indeed, puzzled what to make of it. He is a "timid and somewhat nervous student," he says; but such a strange mixture of timidity and audacity is rarely met with. His nerves must either be very strong, or his nervous centre very weak, when he ventures to pen so malignant an attack on one of the most respectable and most successful practitioners of the present day. If he really be, as he describes himself, a student, his ignorance as to the operation of ovariectomy may in some measure be excused; but if, on the other hand, he is, as I am led to suppose, a rival practitioner, whose rushlight has been eclipsed by the sun of Dr. Bird, and he takes the present opportunity of spitting out his wrath, and trying to wound in the dark, masking himself as "a nervous student," I would inform him that his conduct is base, cowardly, and utterly unworthy of that profession whose attributes, at least, should be honour, truth, justice, and humanity.

I was intending to have entered into a full defence of the doctor, but as you have doubtless received a considerable number of letters on the subject already, I forbear occupying your valuable space. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I would just inform your correspondent, that if he is a *nervous student*, he need not give himself any trouble about the matter of ovariectomy, as his infirmity will effectually disqualify him from ever taking part in so important a branch of his profession. If he is, what is generally supposed, a rival practitioner, explanations are equally unnecessary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours, sleeping and waking,

A BONA FIDE STUDENT.

Dec. 9, 1850.