ment of it. Selections from the test-types of Jaeger and Snellen are appended to both books, and in both, those of Jaeger do not correspond with the original. In it the capitals of No. 1 measure $\frac{3}{4}$ mm., and the m's, n's, v's, etc. $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. In the American editions the capitals measure 1 mm., and the m's, n's, etc., $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Consequently while the Jaeger No. 1 of the Vienna press can be read fluently by a normal eye at 14", that of the American copies can be read with equal fluency at 18". The plates in Stellwag, although bearing the imprint of the German publisher, are inferior to those in the third German edition, and on opening those appended to Wells we find what purports to be a normal eye-ground with a large *arterial sinus* at the inner border of the disk, encircling one-half of it, anastomosing with two arterial twigs given off from one of the superior branches of the central artery of the retina, and finally terminating above in an arterial twig running outwards above the macula lutea. Entirely unfamiliar with any such distribution of the intraocular bloodvessels, we turned to Liebreich's atlas to see whether he gave it the weight of his authority, but failed to find either in the German or English edition of his atlas any such caricature of the circulation in a normal eye-ground.

W. F. N.

ART. XXXVII.—*Chemistry, Inorganic and Organic; with Experiments.* By CHARLES LOUDON BLOXAM, Professor of Chemistry in King's College, London, in the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and in the Department of Artillery Studies, Woolwich. With two hundred and ninety-five illustrations. From the second and revised English edition. 8vo. pp. 700. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1873.

IN this edition of his Chemistry, Professor Bloxam has adopted the atomic system of notation, the use of which has become so general in the past few years, and, though he is of opinion that the change adds materially to the difficulty of teaching chemistry with ease and profit to the student, it can be safely said that he has satisfactorily overcome the difficulty.

One advantage of the work is that it combines better than most the practical and theoretical.

As a rule, those who write about chemistry put forth books which are either exceedingly elementary, or, to the ordinary student, frightfully profound, and there are some who have succeeded in combining the two in such exquisite proportions that it is impossible for a beginner to follow them at all. Here, however, much of this has been avoided, and, on the whole, no book is better fitted to be placed in the hands of one who is about to make his first step in the field of general chemistry.

In the portion relating to organic chemistry, the author has followed no ordinary rule, but has, for the sake of increasing the interest of the study, followed what might be called a natural order. It may be that more is gained than lost by such a course. It certainly will commend itself to beginners and those who do not wish to follow chemistry far, and for this class the book is more particularly intended. It has the disadvantage, however, of rendering it somewhat more difficult at a later period for those who pursue their chemical studies to place together in their minds those substances that are now believed to be especially related to each other.

For the teacher of chemistry the work has an advantage not possessed by any other recent work. That is the large number of experiments, many of them new, descriptions of which, accompanied by excellent wood-cuts, are to be

found throughout the work, and which are of value to the student also. On the whole, the work is well adapted for the place it is intended to fill.

It is well printed upon good paper, and the execution of the wood-cuts is much better than is often found in works printed on this side of the Atlantic.

H. B. H.

ART. XXXVIII.—*On the Results of Thyrotomy for the Removal of Growths from the Larynx.* By MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D. Lond.; Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat; Senior Assistant Physician to the London Hospital, etc. 8vo. pp. 22. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

THIS decidedly controversial brochure is published by the author in reply to Mr. Durham's paper, read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. It is an admirable illustration of how learned doctors can have a lively disagreement over dry statistics. Mr. Durham, having selected a limited number of cases, comes to the conclusion "that the dangers and difficulties attending the operation [of thyrotomy for the removal of growths from the larynx] are neither so numerous nor so considerable as have been represented and commonly supposed," and urges an "earlier, bolder, and more ready resort to this method."

Mr. Mackenzie, who has carefully tabulated the same and additional cases of thyrotomy reported, making forty-eight in all, comes to directly opposite conclusions. The high rate of mortality (over 8 per cent.) attending this operation, the greater or less impairment of the voice ensuing in nearly one-half of the cases, the frequent recurrence of even benign tumours, and the fact that many of the cases thus operated upon had to continue wearing the tracheal canula, are very ably urged by Mr. Mackenzie, and laryngoscopists in general, as reasons why the extra-laryngeal method "should be confined to those cases in which there is danger to life from suffocation or dysphagia, and then only be performed after an experienced laryngoscopist has pronounced it impossible to remove the growth *per vias naturales*."

We have never but once seen this operation performed, and that was the unfortunate case of Schrötter, where, even after the larynx had been split open, it was found impossible to remove the entire growth. We fear that thyrotomy, despite the prominence given to it by this protracted controversy, is doomed to comparative neglect, unless much more brilliant results are adduced, or until it be required for the introduction of some kind of artificial vocal apparatus that remains yet to be discovered.

R. M. B.

ART. XXXIX.—*Essays on Diseases of Children.* By WILLIAM HENRY DAY, M.D., M.R.C.P., Physician to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children. 12mo., pp. 191. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

THIS little volume contains six papers, three of which, we are told in the preface, have already been given to the profession through the media of the *St. Andrews Graduates' Association Transactions*, the *Lancet*, and *British Medical Journal*; the remainder were read before the Harveian Society of London. They treat of—1, Debility in Children; 2, Remittent Fever; 3, Obscure Cerebral Disease; 4, Headaches; 5, Laryngeal and Tracheal Irritation; 6, Croup;