indication for use, and other considerations, connected with the employment of one of the prescriptions embraced in it.

The American editor remarks in the preface to this volume, that one alteration alone has been made in the prescriptions, "which adapts them to the custom of this country—that is, the translation of the directions for the doses and administration of the prescriptions from Latin to English; there is an obvious convenience in this change;" in the propriety of which all must agree.

A very copious general index to the five volumes is also presented here: upon the utility of which it is unnecessary to dwell.

We have thus passed in review the different treatises contained in this volume, and have endeavoured to give a general idea of the opinions of their authors, without entering much into discussions respecting the accuracy of them which might have rendered a still more extended notice necessary. Several of these doubtful points have been briefly examined and explained by the American editor in his notes, to whom the American practitioner will often find himself indebted for important remarks, scattered through the volumes of the Library.

Before closing this notice, we cannot but return our thanks to the liberal and enterprising publishers, who, by republishing this work, have placed it in the power of every practitioner and student in the country, to avail himself, for a comparatively moderate price, of all the information touching the diseases coming under the care of a physician, which, during late years, has so rapidly accumulated in Europe; and it is to be hoped, that they will be encouraged by the success of the present effort, to continue, as they propose doing, the publication of the series, announced as forthcoming in London, and embracing works on Midwifery, Surgery, Anatomy, &c.

C. R. K.

ART. XIV.—*A Practical Essay on some of the principal Surgical Diseases of India.* By F. H. BRETT, Esq. 8vo., pp. 506. Calcutta: 1840.

To the readers of the Eastern medical publications the author of the above work is well known. For many years he has been a resident in British India, and has had vast experience in all of its populous cities from Calcutta to Lahore, the results of which have from time to time been communicated by him to the public. In the work before us we find inflammation and its sequelæ, parasitic growths, the Indian leprosy, diseases of the generative and urinary organs, diseases of the eye and autoplasmic operations successively treated of, in as many chapters. Excepting diseases of the eye, no surgical affections appear to be of so frequent occurrence in India as tumours and calculus, and it is to the chapters treating of these, the best in the book, that we shall particularly direct attention. Hypertrophy of the scrotum and cellular tissue is not very unfrequent in India, seven operations having been performed by our author, for it, in 1837. Of these, two died of mortification of the wound resulting from it, both operations having been done during most sultry weather and in a very crowded hospital. The other five recovered. The aggregate weight of the seven tumours removed, divested of all fluid, was 280 pounds. These tumours do not appear to be confined more to the sedentary than the labouring classes. Our author believes them to be of inflammatory origin, and seems to agree with Dr. Wise in considering the affection as essentially an inflammation of the veins. It comes on with a feeling of pain and heat in the part, and is often ushered in with fever, followed by effusion of lymph in the scrotum, which becomes tumefied, and continues so after the subsidence of the other symptoms. "The fever frequently returns with inflammation and increased swelling. It may be successfully combated in the early stages by a persevering use of purgatives, issues, alteratives, local frictions, and a careful avoidance of the influence of the weather, particularly when combined with the local application of cold and moisture; but the natives can seldom be induced to persevere, and generally neglect the early

stages of the disease. The prepuce is sometimes simultaneously affected. The tumour now increases, but without pain, and not rapidly until it has attained a certain size. It gradually advances, and at length conceals the organs of generation. Its progress is now more rapid from the unresisting structure and pendulous position of the parts, so as at length to attain an enormous bulk. Its seat is in the cellular tissue of the scrotum, and it sometimes commences in the loose texture of the prepuce, though in the larger growths I have generally found the skin of the prepuce healthy, elongated and stretched forward."

A similar enlargement is by no means uncommon in the pudenda of females in Hindostan; a still more hideous form of disease of the same nature affects the prepuce alone; and the lower extremities are so frequently the seat of a like disease as to be observed almost daily among the Bengalese. This hypertrophied state of parts our author believes to have been erroneously termed elephantiasis, inasmuch as it has no connection with that tubercular disease. According to his observations it is a simple vascular sarcoma produced by the infiltration of lymph, and is the same disease with that which has been observed in the West Indies, Africa, Ceylon, and in two or three instances in Europe.

Calculus, according to our author, is a disease of frequent occurrence in India, he having had occasion to cut four patients in one day, all residing in the same village or its immediate neighbourhood, and upwards of one hundred cases having occurred to him during his abode in the East. Spaking of the lateral operation, for which he has a predilection, he says: "Individuals who have been exposed to the vicissitudes of life and privation are generally in the most favourable condition for operation; they therefore require little or no preparatory measures. A vegetable diet for a few days, and the administration of a saline purgative is all that is requisite, and will generally succeed in alleviating constitutional and local irritation. It must always be remembered, however, that the presence of a foreign body is the source of irritation, and that the sooner this is removed the better. In the natives of India, their systems are habitually prepared for operation, and the little advantage derivable from preparatory treatment is more than counterbalanced by fear and suspense. They come with confidence in the superiority of European skill from hearing of our success on other sufferers, and they seek for speedy relief from agonizing pain. The patient is infinitely more pleased by immediate operation, which when set about with the least possible ceremony is not looked upon at all seriously by him. Indeed, if the surgeon does not operate at once, but irritates and alarms him by the use of sounds, the patient almost invariably loses all confidence, and leaves him."

The result of the above practice in 108 cases gives the average number of fatal cases as 1 in 15, his last 70 having all been successful.

Of the 108 cases operated on, 70 were under puberty, of whom 68 were cured and two died, and 38 were adults, of whom 33 were cured and 5 died.

In the fatal cases death is stated to have taken place once one month after the operation, in consequence of impairment of the constitution by previous long-suffering, twice from tetanus, three times from peritonitis, and once in consequence of profuse hemorrhage.

Three instances of alarming arterial hemorrhage occurred out of the 108 cases; one of which, as has just been stated, proved fatal, the wounded vessel not having been secured; in the other two the bleeding vessels were secured by ligatures and did well.

Alarming venous hemorrhage followed the operation in two cases, both old men, in one of whom syncope and convulsions were the consequence, but recovery followed. The unfortunate accident of wounding the rectum, Mr. Brett states has occurred to him, though without any serious consequences resulting.

Agreeing with a great majority of his countrymen, Mr. Brett thinks that even under the present improved state of the instruments, lithotomy cannot supersede lithotomy, and considers it as applicable only to a small proportion of cases. In two instances where the calculi had been seized and broken, and large portions of detritus carried away, the patients refused further procedure and left him, though labouring under irritation. In one case where the stone was

pierced by the perforator, the patient's entreaties for lithotomy were urgent, and the stone completely perforated through, was removed by the process solicited.

We have now noticed the only chapters of Mr. Brett's book of which we can speak favourably: we have been sadly disappointed in the volume, and venture to predict that the reader after wading through his 500 pages will agree with us in saying that the arrangement of it is bad, its style loose and faulty, with but little of interest for an author who has had "numerous opportunities of treating surgical diseases and performed many thousands of operations." The success he has met with after his operations, however, show Mr. Brett to be a good operator, and the efforts first successfully made by him to establish surgical hospitals in Lucknow, Cawnpore, Saugor, &c., proclaim his benevolence and zeal in his calling.

G. W. N.

ART. XV.—*Army Meteorological Register, for the years 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, and 1830, from Observations made by the Surgeons of the Army and others at the Military Posts of the United States.* Prepared under the direction of THOMAS LAWSON, M.D., Surgeon-General United States Army. To which is appended the meteorological register for the years 1822, 1823, 1824, and 1825. Compiled under the direction of JOSEPH LOVELL, M.D., late Surgeon-General of United States Army. [Published for the use of the medical officers of the army.] Philadelphia, Haswell, Barrington, and Haswell, 1840.

THE publication under this title contains 161 octavo pages, most of which consist of tabular abstracts from journals, of the atmospheric changes that have occurred during a long series of years throughout a very extensive range of the North American continent. The facts connected with climatology, established by exact instrumental observation under the direction of the medical department of our army, are of the highest interest, and reflect the greatest credit upon all concerned in their collection. The recent interest awakened in meteorological science will doubtless cause the *Army Register* to be sought after with great eagerness both at home and abroad.

The merit of having first established a system of meteorological reports from our various military stations, belongs to the late surgeon-general, Dr. Lovell, to whom the public service is indebted for the organization of the Medical Bureau, which has effected so much for that important department. The present efficient surgeon-general, Dr. Lawson, has followed up the system established by his able predecessor, and extended the limits of observation, so as to embrace many phenomena not formerly noticed, and which add much greater value to the recent reports. Dr. Lawson informs us in his preliminary remarks, that the meteorological abstracts, which have served as the basis of the general conclusions deduced, do not embrace more, perhaps, than a third of the materials collected in the surgeon-general's office; but inasmuch as the observations he has presented extend over the entire domain of our states and territories, it may reasonably be assumed that the results exhibit a fair expression of the general laws of our climate, which further research will ultimately confirm.

The following extract from the 6th and 7th pages of the *Register*, will not only make us acquainted with many of the laws of our climate, but with other facts of great interest connected with the atmospheric conditions and topography of our country.

"The climate of the United States may be studied under three grand divisions, each of which contains many subdivisions or systems of climate, determined by the influence of local causes. 1. The Northern Division, extending as far south as the 39th degree of latitude, a region characterized by the predominance of low temperature. 2. The Southern Division, in which a high temperature prevails; and 3. The Middle Division, which exhibits phenomena vibrating to both extremes. These divisions will be regarded, in a great measure, as arbi-