ART. XXVI.—*On Spermatorrhœa: its Causes, Symptomatology, Pathology, Prognosis, Diagnosis, and Treatment.* By ROBERTS BARTHOLOW, A. M., M. D., Professor of Physics and Medical Chemistry in the Medical College of Ohio; Lecturer on Clinical Medicine, and Physician to St. John's Hospital, Cincinnati; formerly Assist. Surgeon (Captain) U. S. Army, etc. etc. 12mo. pp. 112. New York: William Wood & Co., 1866.

This little volume contains a brief and well-written summary of what has been learned about masturbation and spermatorrhœa since the days of Hippocrates, and the views of the most recent and most respectable writers on the subject.

It recalls to remembrance Dr. Rozier's *Habitudes Secrètes chez les Femmes*, and Tissot's well-known book, in which there is a chapter on "Simple Gonorrhœa," defined by Galen to be "a flow of semen without erection." These and similar works have established in the popular mind excessive dread of spermatorrhœa. It is by no means rare to meet with patients who fancy themselves to be afflicted with this malady simply because they discover a slight discharge of mucus from the urethra. This error leads many into the hands of advertising practitioners, who pick their pockets and torture them with Lallemand's *porte caustique*, often to the serious and permanent damage of their urinary organs, without relieving their minds from disorder in this connection.

"The true pathology of spermatorrhœa," the author is "disposed to regard," "essentially as a deranged state of the spinal system," consequent, "in a vast majority of cases as they occur in this country," on "venereal excesses and especially masturbation."

In reference to the application of solid nitrate of silver to the prostate, as practised by Lallemand, whose name is most extensively known in connection with the malady under consideration, Dr. Bartholow says (page 80): "Very diverse views have obtained since, as to the utility of the *porte caustique*. It has not, in general, produced that favourable impression upon those cases, claimed for it by its advocates. Not only does it often fail to cure the patient, but the application of caustic is frequently followed by most serious consequences. In all cases it produces great irritation, frequently strangury and bloody urine, and sometimes severe urethritis and cystitis. Too long contact of the caustic may induce induration and organic stricture, a very serious complication of the case. Notwithstanding these sometimes unfortunate results, some surgeons adhere to it, and a few claim all that Ducamp, or Amussat, or Hunter, or Home, did in former time." In spite of its severity and its very rarely curing, our author adds "We should not, therefore, reject this practice of cauterization entirely."

If spermatorrhœa is simply a functional derangement of the spinal nervous system, as Dr. Bartholow is disposed to believe, should it not be treated by removing the causes and by the use of such means as are invigorating generally rather than by local applications of doubtful efficacy at best, which are often followed by most serious consequences?

The extent of the author's experience or his success in the management of this very distressing affection is not definitely stated. Although no material addition is made to the profession's stock of information on the subject, the work will be found acceptable and useful to those who have not leisure or opportunity to consult many books.

W. S. W. R.

ART. XXVII.—*The Elements of Prognosis in Consumption, with Indications for the Prevention and Treatment.* By JAMES EDWARD POLLOCK, M. D., F. R. C. P., Physician to the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton, etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 432. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1865.

This work is on a very important subject, the prognosis of consumption. All physicians who are really familiar with this disease are aware that it is in many