illustration of the vagus, another of the structure of the cortex of the occipital lobe of the brain, and another of the frontal convolution.

Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Urinary Organs.

Delivered at University College Hospital by Sir HENRY THOMPSON, Surgeon Extraordinary to His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Consulting Surgeon and Emeritus Professor of Clinical Surgery to University College Hospital, &c. Eighth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1888.

It is twenty years since Sir Henry Thompson published the first edition of these clinical lectures. The small volume of twelve lectures has gradually grown to three or four times the size, and now comprises thirty-two lectures. This is an increase of six upon the last edition. In almost every part the volume before us bears signs of the author's revision; but the pleasant, conversational, yet forceful style of these lectures has been in no measure sacrificed, and we doubt not that this edition will be as popular as its predecessors with students and practitioners. Much of the new matter in the volume has been already published, such as the chapter on the Dietetic Treatment of Patients excreting Uric Acid in excess, and that on the Supra-pubic Operation. The chief thing that is new in this volume is the author's opinion on the electric cystoscope. He speaks of it in guarded language, but is evidently prepared to recognise its value in certain difficult cases of vesical disease. It is a regrettable omission that in the book Sir Henry Thompson to a large extent ignores his contemporaries.

A Correlation Theory of Chemical Action and Affinity. By THOMAS WRIGHT HALL, M.D. London: Remington and Co. 1888.

IN the preface to this wonderful work we are told that "the living Theorist in Chemistry at best succeeds only in planting himself or his Theory on the Pillory of Science." If this means that the theory must stand the test of scientific criticism, the author need be under no apprehension, and may sleep peacefully in his elevation, since no living being could possibly criticise his book. We have done our best, and read page after page until, like Teufelsdröckh, we felt the approach of the "frightfullest species of Magnetic Sleep." The reader is, from beginning to end, confronted with a kind of scientific nightmare, which defies every attempt at analysis, and of which it is impossible to make any kind of sense, while the victim is lured on through chapter after chapter by attractive headings and sonorous phrases. A few extracts will give some idea of the character and style of the book. If any of our readers can understand them, they will leave the unfortunate reviewer far behind.

"From the forms with which this earth teems, therefore, we abstract, while theorising on Chemistry, the Quintessential Form—the forms of the Cosmical Solidity, Liquidity, Gaseity, and their Pitches or the allotropy-like changes," &c. (page 11). "In this Chemistry I study a most Common Thing—the Fire that Science has least regarded, namely, the Dayshine and the Nightshine" (page 39). The nightshine seems to be starlight. "In a thundery landscape there is a Plus force and form superabounding in the Sky, which the Land, the Land Waters and the Flora lack, attract, and can appropriate, eagerly and greedily; and there is a Minus force and form superabounding in the thundery landscape's Lands," &c. (page 69). "Chapter XXXVI. Action between Oxygen and Metal.—Oxygen is pergaseous, very expanded and cosmically heated, but liquefiable and solidifiable by Local Cold" (page 211). "For example, combine or juxtapose molecularly Nitrogen with plenty of Carbon; which carbon is to the low-pitched spectral force what Nitrogen is to the high-

pitched, which is to heaviness what Nitrogen is to lightness which is to cosmical cooledness what Nitrogen is to heatedness," &c. (page 294).

We may conclude with the following superb passage, in which the force of alliteration is brought to bear with overwhelming effect:—"In the packed pulsating pressure of the Plenum the rubbed expanded Atomy and the rubbed contracted Atomy, the Positive and Negative Atomy will be pushed together or will seem to attract each other, amid the Ether of the Plenum. A dilated bulkier Atomy in a pulsating packed Plenum naturally dovetails into the hollow room made by the contraction of a negative neighbour Atomy." One sympathises with the rubbed and contracted negative neighbour Atomy, and does not grudge him his capital letter, but consolation comes with the thought that a worse thing may befall, for if two contracted or negative Atomies take to pulsating against one another, they do so at a fearful risk; they "pulsate against the order of pressures and of form and of pulsation of the Plenum, and, meeting each other, will not flow or oscillate like the generality, but will shock or repel each other" (p. 353), with possible injury to their moral characters.

Adopting our author's style, we cannot but fear that the Pulsations of the Plenum in his Pericranium have produced profound Perturbations in his Physical Perceptions; or, in other words, that the good Doctor, whose home, it appears, is in Bahia, has been overworking his brain.

New Inventions.

GREEN'S HYPODERMIC CASES.

MESSRS. CHARLES GREEN & Co., of Tower Chambers, London, have forwarded to us one of their hypodermic cases, containing a syringe, needles, and a bottle for holding the hypodermic solution. The syringe (figured below) is neat and handy; it has the doses very clearly marked in black upon an opal glass ground, with a central space of clear glass which enables the solution and the piston to be easily seen. The different parts of the syringe are united by fine screws, without the employment of any cement, so that the instrument can readily be taken to pieces for cleaning, and when screwed together sufficiently firmly, rubber washers prevent any leakage. The bottle to

contain the hypodermic solution is fitted with a screw-capped nickel-plated top. An opening through this is, under ordinary conditions, closed with a small wedge-shaped plug, which holds its position firmly when the bottle is inverted, and yet is readily removed when the solution is required. The opening is exactly fitted by the nozzle of the hypodermic syringe. The arrangement of the metallic plug is ingenious, and obviates the difficulty so often encountered in attempting to remove a glass stopper around which crystallisation has taken place. The hypodermic cases are supplied at reasonable prices, and are constructed with one or more bottles.

NEW WIRE ADJUSTER, FOR USE WITH THE ÉCRASEUR.

HAVING experienced the usual difficulty met with while endeavouring to adjust the wire loop of the écraseur round the base of an intra-uterine polypus, I was led to design an instrument which I consider will be found on trial a valuable aid in such cases. The illustration represents the wire-holder, which will retain its grasp of the loop while lifted

over the polypus and placed where required by the operator, while at the same time free play is allowed for tightening the wire by the *écraseur*. The clip on the handles can be released and the wire set free at will, and the operation

concluded without fear of the wire slipping off the polypus. The simplicity of the idea will, I fancy, recommend it. The makers are Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.K.Q.C.P.I.

TORSION BRAIDED WIRE PILLOWS AND MATTRESSES.

THESE appliances appear calculated to be of value, especially to invalids confined to bed, for whom comfort is of great importance. The obvious advantages of these mattresses and pillows are, of course, chiefly their high elasticity and porosity, by which easy repose may be secured without undue heat. They are stated to be very durable, a quality which has been obtained by submission of the steel wire to great pressure. To prevent rust, which would seem *a priori* to be an objection to the use of metal for such a purpose, the wire is said to be thickly coated with tin. As they must necessarily be more cleanly than cushions stuffed with hair or woollen material, on the score of health alone they are worthy of patronage. The patentees are the American Braided Wire Company, 64, Church-street, Shoreditch, E.

A NEW DRAIN PIPE.

AN ingenious contrivance has been invented by Messrs. Scott and Co. for the prevention of leakage from sewers and house drains. At one end of each length of pipe is a spigot which dovetails into a socket in the next pipe, the whole being sealed by liquid cement, which is run in through apertures leading to the socket. The joint is said to be absolutely watertight, and the drains to be readily laid. So firmly are the pipes wedged together that they remain intact and bridge over any sinking of the ground that may occur, thus largely replacing iron pipes. If experience should show that these joints stand the test of time, they will give increased facilities for the sanitary engineer to protect the health of his clients.

BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the General Council was held at the Medical Society's rooms, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W., Mr. Savory, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in the chair. There were present: Sir Dyce Duckworth, Drs. Priestley, Buzzard, Fardon, Kingston Fowler, Heywood Smith, Acland, Gell, Schofield, Messrs. Owen and Pick, and other well-known medical men; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and many matrons and nurses from London and provincial hospitals.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Miss Wood, the secretary, and confirmed by the chairman.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick, hon. secretary, read the annual report of the Executive Committee, which stated that the British Nurses' Association has proved in every way to be most successful, both in its initiation and in its progress during the past eleven months. "Founded upon Dec. 7th, 1887, the following two months were devoted to conferences with leading members of the medical profession, with the

result that on Feb. 13th, 1888, a great public meeting was held in St. George's Hall, which determined that the Association should be definitely organised upon bases which these conferences had decided to be most advisable. Nearly 100 members were immediately enrolled, and by Feb. 24th the numbers had risen to 391. Upon that day the first general meeting of members took place at the Middlesex Hospital. The bye-laws, which had been drawn up chiefly by a committee of well-known medical men and matrons of hospitals, were unanimously adopted, and the General Council and Executive Committee and honorary officers appointed. From that date the progress of the Association has been rapid beyond all expectation, and even beyond all precedent. To-day the Executive Committee has the pleasure to report that 2203 members have been enrolled. But beyond this, permission has been granted for the formation of branches in the Australasian colonies and in South Africa, the members of which will probably swell the numbers of the Association by several hundreds. Financially, the Association has been also most successful. The total receipts for the past year have been £736 5s. 6d., while the whole expenses, including the necessarily heavy preliminary charges for public and private meetings, printing and postage, altogether only amount to £216 1s. 8d., leaving a balance to the credit of the Association of more than £520. Out of this the committee has invested £350 18s.—the exact amount received from life subscriptions and donations. The fact, however, that the expenses have been so small and the balance so large is due to all the work having till lately been performed gratuitously. But the time has now arrived when the Association can well afford to pay for offices of its own and for the necessary clerical labour. The committee therefore has decided to take suitable rooms as soon as possible, and the assistance of Miss Catherine Jane Wood has been obtained for the Association as its secretary. Many meetings have been held to consider the provisions to be embodied in the Royal Charter, which it is the first and well-known object of the Association to obtain. The matter is of such vast importance that the Executive Committee strongly feels it should not be too hurriedly discussed and decided upon. A *conversazione* was held at the Grosvenor Gallery on Dec. 7th, the first anniversary of the foundation of the Association, at which over 1000 persons were present. A series of six meetings has also been arranged, the first of which took place on Nov. 23rd, and was attended by more than 100 members and visitors. Meetings have furthermore been held in many of the chief towns in the kingdom in favour of the objects of the Association. For the future this council has authorised the foundation of a benevolent fund, to assist such members as may be in need of temporary pecuniary assistance, but the benefits of which will probably be further extended in due time; the foundation of a gold medal of merit for nurses, to be called the 'Princess Helena Medal'; the establishment of convalescent homes and holiday houses in the country, or at the seaside, for the benefit of members. How much or how little of these schemes—each requiring great organisation and large sums of money—the Executive Committee may be able to accomplish in this coming year cannot be foretold, nor what progress may be made with the first and greatest scheme of all—the acquirement of the Royal Charter. But in view of the unexampled success which has hitherto attended the efforts of the Association, the committee are encouraged to hope for much more in this coming year. The committee cannot close this report without acknowledging most gratefully the assistance it has derived from the advice and support of her Royal Highness the President, the value of which to the Association has been quite incalculable."

The report was unanimously adopted, and Dr. Priestley in graceful terms proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Savory for taking the chair. This was seconded by Dr. Fardon, and carried by acclamation. Mr. Savory replied, and the meeting then concluded.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES ORTHOPÆDIC AND SPINAL HOSPITAL.—The Queen, having generously contributed the sum of fifty guineas towards the funds, has further commanded that for the future the hospital shall be called "The Royal Orthopædic and Spinal Hospital, Birmingham."