he has shown himself entitled to respect; indeed, we believe that a teacher, to be successful, must enunciate his ideas *ex cathedra*; but on mooted subjects, it were perhaps wiser, and more modest, at least, to take some notice of the views entertained by the great majority of others.

We will only venture one other criticism, of a similar character, in relation to the author's doctrine of the secretion of bile. He entirely excludes this most important secretion from all share in the digestion of the food. "The bile passes through the alimentary canal, not for the purpose of assisting in the digestion of the food, but in order that its own ingredients may be changed and converted into other substances. The blood needs these substances for its nutrition, and they are accordingly produced by means of the biliary secretion." (p. 141.) In the above doctrine, Dr. Dalton is certainly not in accord with the highest authorities on this subject, nearly all of whom ascribe to the bile the power to assist in the digestion of fats. The experiments of Bidder and Schmidt, as quoted by Dr. Fenwick in his recent work on *Morbid States of the Stomach and Duodenum*, go clearly to prove that the bile is a very essential agent in the digestion of fats.

With these brief remarks, we take leave of Professor Dalton's excellent treatise; and very cordially recommend it to those for whose benefit it has been more especially prepared.

J. J. R.

ART. XXXVIII.—*Compendium of Percussion and Auscultation, and of the Physical Diagnosis of Diseases affecting the Lungs and Heart.* By AUSTIN FLINT, M. D. 18mo. pp. 36, 4th edition. New York: William Wood & Co., 1869.

This little *Compendium*, we are told in the preface, was originally intended for insertion in a Physician's Visiting Book. Circumstances have, however, induced the author to publish it in its present form; and in compliance with the wishes of his private pupils, and of others, it has recently been reprinted. It is not intended to be a substitute for the systematic treatises on auscultation and percussion, but simply as an aid in memorizing the physical signs.

The book is divided into two parts: In the first is given "A summary of pulmonary signs obtained by percussion and auscultation, their distinctive character and significance;" in the second, "The physical signs involved in the diagnosis of pulmonary affections."

Experience with students has taught us that very few recent graduates in medicine are thoroughly familiar with the different physical signs. To them, therefore, this little book, which may be conveniently carried in the coat-pocket, and which contains so much information, will be exceedingly valuable. It is scarcely necessary to add, that we have no criticism to offer upon the manner in which the distinguished author has done his work.

J. H. H.

ART. XXXIX.—*A Conspectus of the Medical Sciences: comprising Manuals of Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Materia Medica, Practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics, for the use of Students.* By HENRY HARTSHORNE, M. D., Professor of Hygiene in the University of Pennsylvania, &c., 12mo. pp. 1002. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1869.

This *Conspectus* will be found to be a very excellent and efficient text-book for the use of the student in his attendance upon a course of medical lectures. It presents, "in as brief a form and as clear a manner as possible," the indispensable elements of a course of medical studies as taught in the colleges, or conveyed

through the pages of approved text-books. The only claim set up for the present Conspectus is, a careful compilation of the generally received facts and doctrines in each of the branches of medical science embraced in it, and as close a condensation of the matter thus made use of, as was consistent with entire clearness and definiteness. The aim of the author, he assures us, has been, throughout the entire work, to secure both accuracy and lucidity in all its teachings, combined with as near an approach to completeness as the limits of his plan would admit, and this aim, it cannot be denied, he has succeeded in most successfully carrying out.

Dr. Hartshorne tells us, in his preface, "that in regard to authorship, the name upon the title page might be rather announced as that of the *editor* than of the writer of the work; since only three of the seven parts or manuals it comprises have been prepared by his hand; namely, those upon anatomy, physiology, and practice of medicine." The preparation of the others was intrusted to gentlemen whose special studies gave reason for confidence in their execution of the task in each case to the best advantage of the student."

D. F. C.

ART. XL.—*Outlines of Comparative Anatomy and Medical Zoology.* By HARRISON ALLEN, M. D., Prof. of Zoology and Comp. Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. 8vo. pp. 190. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1869.

This is a good compendium and useful guide to a course of lectures on the subjects therein treated. The leading facts in the Comparative Anatomy of Animals are so clearly, accurately, and concisely stated that the work will not only prove valuable for the readiness with which information is communicated, but also to remind one of that which may be forgotten. The classification adopted by the author appears to us to be in accordance with the present state of knowledge, both in its lesser and greater divisions. Taking into consideration the vastness of the science, its multitude and variety of facts, which have been taken into view in the preparation of the work, it is remarkably free from important errors. The portion on Medical Zoology is in more detail than the previous portion of the work, and must prove of interest to the medical student and physician. Nearly all animals having any reference to medical science are described. We recommend the book not only to medical students and practitioners, but also to those who are interested in natural history, and wish for more information than the general appearance, classification, and habits of animals.

J. L.

ART. XLI.—*An Essay on the Ligation and Management of the Umbilical Cord at Childbirth.* By A. F. A. KING, M.D., etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 37. Washington, D. C., 1867.

IN this essay Dr. K. strongly opposes the plan of ligating the cord, and the usual method of dressing the umbilicus in the new-born infant. After a very full exposition of the reasons which have led him to this opposition he details, step by step, the mode of treating the cord and navel pursued by him, with its attendant advantages. His objections to tying the cord at birth may be thus summed up: 1st. Ligation of the umbilical cord in the human infant is unnecessary, and for the following reasons; *a*, because it is not necessary on the birth of any other animal; *b*, because the supposed necessity for it, the prevention of hemorrhage, does not exist, as will become evident from a reference to the formation of the cord and the structure of its component vessels; as well as to the numerous recorded cases, in which no ligature was applied, and yet no fatal bleeding occurred; *c*, because to ligate for the sake of cleanliness is superfluous.