ART. XXXVI.—*Handbook of Ophthalmology*. By Prof. C. SCHWEIGGER, of the University of Berlin. Translated from the third German edition. By PORTER FARLEY, M.D., Rochester, N. Y. 8vo. pp. 555. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1878.

WE have here presented, for the first time, to the English reading public the well-known Handbook of Schweigger, of which the first edition in the original appeared in 1871. The preface which accompanied the first edition has been omitted, whether by the author or translator we have at present no means of deciding; but in either case we think it unfortunate, inasmuch as our author clearly states therein that his readers must bring with them the necessary knowledge of optics, anatomy, and physiology, and, furthermore, that he by no means expects to enable the student to dispense with attendance on clinical demonstrations and lectures. The book, therefore, calls for the most careful and attentive reading on the part of those not moderately well versed in the subjects of which it treats; and this is all the more necessary on account of the terse and condensed style of the author. Indeed we cannot read far without recognizing the same vigorous hand and trenchant style which we find in his *Lectures on the Use of the Ophthalmoscope* (1864).

Occasionally it seems to us the author's own enthusiasm and interest in special subjects have induced him to expand these to the detriment of others of more practical importance to the profession and to the public. Thus, when treating of strabismus, he has given us a most carefully elaborated discussion of the subject of the "suppression of retinal images" and of "identical retinal points," while he dismisses briefly the increasing prevalence of near-sightedness in schools and colleges; and, indeed, while quoting Cohn's first investigations on the subject, he omits all reference to the more recent statistics thereon.

At every turn, however, we recognize the careful practitioner and experienced observer, and the book fairly bristles with useful hints to those reading it carefully. Dr. Farley has done his part of the work well, and has given us a faithful reproduction of the original.

W. F. N.

ART. XXXVII.—*Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York for the Year 1877*. 8vo. pp. 479. Albany, 1877.

THE large and handsome volume published by the New York Society has very little eloquence, but a large amount of practical observation, by practical men, and for practical use.

Prof. R. W. PEASE earnestly commends the treatment of urethral stricture by the methods and instruments employed by Dr. Otis. When the measurements are carefully made, and the strictural fibres completely divided, so as to restore the normal calibre, he asserts that the cure is speedy and permanent, without continued use of bougies. Forty-five cases are tabulated. These appear to support the claims made for the treatment.

Irido-choroiditis, apparently dependent on pyæmic infection after child-birth, is treated of by Dr. T. R. POOLEY. The one case here reported proved fatal.

Recovery from a puncturing wound, made by a jagged iron fragment, believed to have penetrated the liver, as well as the lung and diaphragm, is reported by Dr. PARMELEE. The eleventh rib was divided by the accident.