the object which the writer had in view, and in his preface to the first edition he states that his main intention was to produce a treatise on diseases of the nose which would familiarize the general practitioner with a subject which has not hitherto received the attention it deserves. That the author has succeeded in his intention is quite evident, and it is right to remember that in no branch of medicine does there exist more difficulty in bringing an intelligent account before the reader of this comparatively new branch of medical study. It need hardly be pointed out that the literature is very great; that the whole treatment both in its medical and surgical aspect is at present under discussion, and that it is by no means an easy matter to give the student of medicine an accurate account of the many prevailing ideas on such a variety of questions as must be referred to in a work like this. It would be very hard indeed at the present day to write a complete treatise upon the subject, but the author has given us what is as valuable—viz., the result of personal experience, and that in an able, clear, and scientific way; consequently the profession is indebted to him for enriching the English medical literature with this work. Dr. Macdonald has not contented himself with theories, although these are by no means overlooked. On the contrary, the anatomy, physiology, and pathology have been carefully gone into. It may safely be predicted that the present edition will be more popular and successful than the first. *J. Macintyre.*

Haweis, The Rev. H. R.—*Sir Morell Mackenzie, Physician and Operator. A Memoir Compiled and Edited from Private Papers and Personal Reminiscences.* London: Allen & Co. 1893.

IF the spirit of the departed physician could revisit this mundane sphere, well might he exclaim, "Save me from my friends!" A more injudicious, tactless, and foolish biography was never presented to the world. The major part of the book is occupied by a *rechauffée* of the exciting, though not inspiring, controversy which raged during the years 1887 and 1888. Real friends of Mackenzie had hoped that the professional and unprofessional amenities, enmities, and *fiascos* of this period were dead and decently buried, and on the way to being remembered no more, but here we have the ghost of the controversy resuscitated and made to dance to an accompaniment of Mr. Haweis's fireworks. The family of the late physician seem to have made an effort to suppress the work, and some unedifying letters in the daily papers would appear to leave the blame of its publication with author or publisher. With whomsoever this blame must rest, the real friends of Morell Mackenzie cannot but feel that author or publisher, or both, have done but a sorry service to the memory of a striking man. If Mr. Haweis had called himself the enemy of Mackenzie instead of posing as a friend, readers might have thought that, however bad the taste of the writer, he had at least succeeded in scoring points against his adversary. Save us all from biographers of this description! *R. Norris Wolfenden.*

Joal.—*De la Respiration dans le Chant.* Paris: Rueff et Cie. 232 pages.

DR. JOAL has produced a very interesting little book, in which he deals with the question of the correct method of breathing for the train-

ing of the singing voice. The book is dedicated to M. Jean de Reszké, from whom Dr. Joal has derived much assistance. The following are the rules laid down for the singer :—

1. Not to raise the clavicle and upper ribs.
2. To fully dilate the lower portion of the thorax.
3. To depress the abdominal wall in its inferior region, *i.e.*, the umbilical and hypogastric regions.

The anatomy and physiology of the respiratory mechanism are first dealt with, then the different types of respiration (costal, clavicular, and abdominal). According as age advances, the normal type of respiration becomes more markedly superior costal in the female, and of nearly equal proportion of costal and abdominal in the male. The direct influence of the corset is traceable in determining the superior costal type of breathing in the female.

In ordinary tranquil respiration the movements of amplification of the thorax are principally felt in the vertical and transverse diameters, assisted by the contraction of the diaphragm, which plays a preponderating *role* in the mechanism of ordinary respiration. In artistic respiration the conditions are somewhat different from simple tranquil breathing, and the objects to be attained are, to make an ample provision of air ; to expel it under strong pressure ; to regulate its exit ; to increase the resonance of the thoracic cavity. The dilatation of the chest ought therefore to be in its three diameters, and should be total and not partial.

The author then sets himself to disprove the theories of Mandl, and condemn the practice founded upon these theories in the training of singers, and to discuss in considerable detail the three methods of respiration which have been taught, *i.e.*, the clavicular, the abdominal, and the costal. Spirometric investigations are recorded, showing that with the latter the singer obtains a greater respiratory capacity than by either of the other two methods of breathing, a method which also, by increasing the resonance of the thorax, reinforces the sounds produced. This is a return to the practice of the old Italian masters of singing. Chapters follow upon the education of respiration, and its hygiene, and the book closes with two short chapters dealing with local and general conditions which impair or disable the singing voice.

It would not be fair to Dr. Joal to abstract his book. Enough has been said to indicate that it is an interesting and valuable contribution. The author is himself an excellent musician, and is entitled to deal with these matters in a double capacity. It is a book which ought to be attentively studied by singers as well as practitioners, and if its precepts were carried out we should see fewer of the cases of vocal disability which we constantly meet with in vocalists who have learned to produce their voice in a faulty method, or have been left to evolve a method of respiration out of their own inner consciousness. Singing pupils are often at the mercy of ignorant teachers. Would that Dr. Joal's little brochure could be "read, learned, and inwardly digested" by these latter !

R. Norris Woifenden.