is concerned with macroscopical and microscopical lesions of the nerves, voluntary restoration of function, electrotherapy, surgical treatment, physiotherapy, orthopaedic apparatus, and symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of various types of paralysis.

A TREATISE ON REGIONAL SURGERY. By various authors, edited by JOHN FAIRBAIRN BINNIE, A.M., C.M., F.A.C.S., Kansas City, Missouri. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

The aim of this work is to present short monographs on the injuries and diseases of the different regions of the body. Volume one is written by thirteen different authors. It is stated in the announcement of volume one that there will be chapters upon the Head, the Branchial System, the Thorax and the Breast; and in volume two there will be chapters upon the Abdomen, the Genito-urinary System, and the Spine; and in volume three there will be chapters upon the Upper Extremity and the Lower Extremity. The first two volumes have appeared from the printer.

In so extensive a book, a summary of nearly all of surgery, it is extremely difficult to contribute in a brief book review a clear picture of what each author has covered in the subject assigned. Moreover, it is extremely difficult to form constructive criticism where such a large number of subjects appear in so small a space. Obviously in such a compendium of surgery, even though the separate chapters are pretty complete monographs of the subject in question, there must be a great variation in the quality of the work presented.

It would be aside the mark to criticise the wisdom of undertaking such a tremendous task as the editing of volumes of this sort. Dr. Binnie has chosen for the most part representative men as authors and each one has presented the subject entrusted to him in the form that appealed to him as most attractive.

The chapters in the first volume that deserve especial mention as being particularly well done are those by Joseph Bloodgood upon the Female Breast, and Samuel Robinson upon the Surgery of the Heart, Pericardium and Diaphragm. The three chapters by Charles H. Mayo upon the Thyroid, the Parathyroids, and the Thymus are written and illustrated in an authoritative manner. The chapter by J. E. Thompson upon Inflammatory Infections of the Neck is well done and introduces a new subject in a systematic surgery. J. E. Summers presents the subject of Injuries and Diseases of the Face and Jaw in a simple and instructive fashion.

Volume two, which covers the Abdomen, the Genito-urinary System, and the Spine, is as a whole better done than volume one. There are chapters upon diseases of the abdominal wall, hernia, the stomach and small intestines, the vermiform appendix, the large intestines, intestinal obstruction, the peritoneum and omentum, the rectum and anus, the liver, the pancreas, the spleen, the kidney and ureter, the bladder, the prostate, the external male genitalia, affections of the spinal column, and diseases of the spinal cord.

In glancing through the chapters of the second volume I am very much

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struck by the fact that the men who have written these various chapters are the men who have been devoting special attention to these particular subjects. I am also impressed by the fact that these monographs are not exhaustive treatises, but represent the knowledge each surgeon has upon the subject in hand.

Consequently I should say in criticising this book of Binnie's that it is distinctly a summary of the knowledge of individual special men upon each subject contributed. In this sense the surgery is an unusual one, and it is quite representative of American surgery. The volumes represent a group of special monographs written by special men, and in most instances are well conceived and well written.

It may be that it will always be necessary to possess a general surgery that covers all subjects. More and more in the future, I believe, however, that greater dependence will be had upon individual monographs rather than upon a general surgery. The present surgery may well represent the transition between these special monographs and the old-time general surgery in that it attempts to be a combination of both.

CHARLES L. SCUDDER.

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