ART. XLVII.—*Myelitis of the Anterior Horns or Spinal Paralysis of the Adult and Child.* By E. C. SEGUIN, M.D., etc. 8vo. pp. 120. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1877.

THE volume before us is a revised, and indeed, a rewritten edition of a little brochure which included an essay on "Spinal Paralysis of the Adult," and a lecture on "Infantile Spinal Paralysis." The author has seen that the division of the disorder into infantile and adult spinal paralysis was simply arbitrary, for the disease may come on at any period of life, and he has therefore classed it under one head, namely, "Myelitis of the Anterior Horns," or "Poliomyelitis Anterior."

It is a singular circumstance that after all the years that infantile spinal paralysis has been recognized as a distinct affection, it is only within a few years that it has been observed that the same form of paralysis occurs in adults. Since then observers are constantly adding to the number of cases of the disease in adults.

In the present essay Dr. Seguin deals with the affection only as it occurs in adults, and quotes all the cases that he has been able to collect. These number forty-five, and several of them have come under his own observation. The ages of the patients varied from fourteen years (a male) to sixty-seven. By far the greater number of cases occur in infancy, about the age of two years; but they are met with occasionally from this age until about twenty, when there seems, from Dr. Seguin's cases, to be an increase again.

The chapter on pathological anatomy is complete, but adds nothing to what was already known on the subject. There is an excellent table of autopsies of twenty-nine cases of "infantile spinal paralysis."

There is one thing that strikes us in reading the histories of the cases reported, and quoted by Dr. Seguin, and it is the greater susceptibility to cure in the adult than in the infantile form of the disorder; and also that there is far greater mortality than is met with in children. All writers agree that infantile paralysis is rarely ever fatal to children, but that complete recovery is to be looked for in but a small proportion of cases. Of the forty-five cases in Dr. Seguin's work, five were fatal, two directly from the disease, and three from other causes. Twelve of the remaining forty recovered entirely.

Of course the entire number of cases is yet too small to base positive conclusions upon; but the points connected with prognosis indicate to us that there is either some difference in the disease as occurring in adults and children, or that the former have a greater power to recover from affections of the spinal cord.

No doubt this essay will be of much use in bringing before the profession the knowledge of the affection, and will induce many to place their cases on record, so that there is reason to believe that our information on the subject will be largely increased, and there will be more definite facts as to etiology, etc., established.

W. S.

ART. XLVIII.—*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children.* By J. FORSYTH MEIGS, M.D., Physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital, etc., and WILLIAM PEPPER, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged. 8vo. pp. 1012. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1877.

IN preparing for the press the sixth edition of this justly popular work, which has now been before the profession for almost thirty years, the authors have carefully