operators. Thus, Brodeur teaches that nephrectomy should be resorted to only after the failure of other measures for floating, calculous, suppurating, hydronephritic, and cystic kidneys; that it may be practised for earcioma if the general health is not impaired; and that it is indicated as a primary measure for urinary fistulæ, and sarcomatous and other tumors.

OUTLINES OF THE PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS AND ALLIED VENEREAL DISEASES. By HERMAN VON ZEISSL, M.D., late Professor nt the Imperial Royal University of Vienna. Second edition, revised by MAXIMILIAN VON ZEISSL, M.D., Privat-Dozent at the University of Vienna. Authorized edition; translated, with notes, by H. RAPHAEL, M.D. 8vo. xii. pp. 402. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1886.

THESE outlines of Zeissl's are too modestly named, for his work is a most full and detailed one, and leaves but little for such filling up as might be proper if his subject were dealt with only in outline. Certain critics have remarked that the part devoted to pathology is disproportionately large, and that in which treatment is discussed disproportionately small. We do not concur in this criticism. The fact is, that while there is still room for much debate as to the exact nature of the different venereal diseases—although we have settled convictions in regard to this matter—there is not much room for discussion as to the best methods of treating them.

Zeissl is a dualist, and in his Introductory states briefly and clearly the reasons which to him (and to us) seem to establish conclusively the essential difference between syphilis and other venereal diseases, namely, the venereal ulcer and gonorrhœa. Gonorrhœa Zeissl calls "venereal catarrh," and the venereal ulcer he calls "*chancre*," in his own tongue; or "*chancre*," borrowing the French term. We regret that the translator of his work has made use of the term "*soft chancre*" for the German term "*chancre*," since we have frequently occasion to observe that, what might seem so innocent, leads to confusion in the minds of those who are not perfectly familiar with the history of modern opinions in regard to venereal diseases. Another error of the translator consists in his translation of the German term "*Sklerose*" by "*sclerotic ulcer*." He is, of course, aware that neither sclerosis nor ulceration is conclusive as to the nature of a venereal lesion, and that the more of the one there is, the less there will be of the other. Many writers in our own language have settled upon the term "*initial lesion of syphilis*" as the most unequivocal one to apply to what it describes, and we hope that their example may be followed when another edition of the work we are reviewing appears.

We have no space to speak in detail of the teachings of Zeissl in regard to the different manifestations of the venereal diseases, although we may express some surprise that the section devoted to the site and form of the "*Hunterian induration*" (an ill-chosen term for the initial lesion of syphilis) makes no mention of the urethra. Zeissl has come to the conclusion that extirpation of the initial lesion of syphilis, however

early performed, does not prevent the outbreak of later manifestations, and he doubts whether the earliest possible cauterization is of any use.

In regard to the treatment of syphilis, we note that Zeissl considers expectant treatment as suitable to all "recent cases of acquired secondary syphilis," as well as to all cases in which a febrile disease supervenes. If the phenomena of the secondary period resist expectant treatment for eight or ten weeks, treatment with iodine may be commenced, and this is applicable to *all phases* of syphilis. In fact, relapses occur less frequently after an early treatment with iodine than after the use of mercury. Of the preparations containing iodine, the iodide of sodium and the iodide of iron are the best. The latter is especially suited to anæmic cases. Iodoform is also useful in some cases.

We call attention to this point because it has appeared to us that the opinion that iodine is adapted to the treatment of the earliest stages of syphilis, has not secured the practical assent of English- and French-speaking medical men which it deserves. It does not seem to be generally known that Sigmund, in his later years, came to reverse the old theory that mercury was the best remedy for early syphilis, and iodine for its later stages. We are glad to observe that Zeissl states that "Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact, that even in the gravest forms of syphilis the preparations of iodine alone will often be found sufficient." And, again, "The preparations of iodine are adapted to all forms of syphilitic disease." And, as to mercurials, he says: "The mercurials generally accomplish more if they have been preceded by a course of treatment with iodine."

With this we must close our review. Zeissl's work does not need more praise than it has long since received. As the result of an enormous experience, and of a most thorough study of the subject of venereal diseases, it is invaluable to every syphilographer, and its practical teachings ought to be familiar to every one who undertakes the treatment of venereal diseases.

As a book, this translation is a credit to the publishers, and in the main to the translator. We would suggest, in addition to what has been said above, that it would be an improvement if the prescriptions were translated into the terms of our U. S. Pharmacopœia, and, even if this were not done, that they should be put into correct Latin.

C. W. D.

A TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D., Surgeon-General U. S. Army (Retired List), etc. With one hundred and twelve illustrations. Eighth edition, with corrections and additions. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1886.

THE fact that an eighth edition of Dr. Hammond's work has been called for is sufficient proof of its standing in the American profession, but when the preface of the seventh edition calls attention to the fact that it has been translated into French, and that an Italian translation was at that time going through the press; it is very evident that the first systematic treatise on nervous diseases published in America has commanded decided attention abroad.

Certainly, in point of lucid arrangement and classification, Dr. Ham-