

## PART II.

### REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

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*The Physiological Action of Drugs : an Introduction to Practical Pharmacology.* By M. S. PEMBREY, M.A., M.D. ; and C. D. F. PHILLIPS, M.D., LL.D. London: Edward Arnold. 1901. Pp. 100.

THIS book describes a number of experiments made on "brainless" frogs, in which drugs are either injected subcutaneously, dropped on the exposed heart, or directly applied to the separated muscles and nerves. In all cases the phenomena which follow the application of the drug are fully and clearly described, and the conclusions which may be drawn from them are fairly stated. Whenever possible the result of the application is studied by the graphic method, and a very large number of records got in this way are reproduced in the text.

We fail to understand, however, what the authors wish us to understand by the brainless frog. The animal in this condition is sometimes spoken of as the frog with its cerebral hemispheres removed, and sometimes as a pithed frog. On the first page the destruction of the brain by a pin introduced through the occipito-atloid space is described, and it is either implied or stated that this is the method for "removal of the cerebral hemispheres" always employed. But by this operation the entire brain and medulla oblongata are destroyed, and not only the cerebral hemispheres, which are in frogs perhaps the least important part of the whole mass. The frog is thus reduced, as regards his central nervous system, to the spinal cord. Yet we read on p. 47 that after a subcutaneous dose of morphia the frog cannot jump at all, and does not readily turn over when placed on his back, also that respiration ceases. Similarly, on p. 89 we are told that respiration ceases after administration of physostigmin.

Now, the spinal frog in our experience never springs, or turns over when placed on his back, nor does he perform any movements of respiration, and the same seems to be the experience of Professor Sherrington, as given in Schäfer's Text-book. So that either some undescribed operation must be performed on the frogs which leaves intact the lower parts of the brain, or the authors' experience of the spinal frog must differ from that of other physiologists. Further than this we have nothing but praise for the book, which will undoubtedly be most useful to everyone undertaking the study of Experimental Pharmacology. The substances studied are twenty-one in number, and extend from distilled water to strychnia, morphia, and digitalin. The authors are to be congratulated on their work, which will form a most valuable addition to the library of every student of physiology or toxicology.

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*Histology and Pathology: a Manual for Students and Practitioners.* BY JOHN BENJAMIN NICHOLS, M.D.; and FRANK PALMER VALE, M.D. London: Henry Kimpton. 1901. Pp. 458.

THIS volume forms one of Kimpton's series of Modern Text-books, edited by Bern B. Gallaudet, M.D. It is in reality two separate works bound together, on different subjects and by different and independent writers. The first part is on Normal Histology, by Dr. Nichols; the second on Pathology, by Dr. Vale. Each author repudiates responsibility for the statements of the other.

The part on histology presents no features of originality either in the matter or in the way in which the subject is treated. It follows the usual arrangement, beginning with the cell, then describing the tissues, and finally the organs. The descriptions are necessarily brief, but, so far as we have seen, correct and intelligible. The figures are numerous, and for the most part taken from well-known sources. There is no section on microscopic technique.

The second part is of rather wide scope. Besides dealing with special pathological anatomy, it treats of all

the more important subjects of general pathology, as inflammation, repair of wounds, fever, thrombosis and embolism, oedema, necrosis, degenerations, atrophy and hypertrophy, tumours, &c. Such a wide range of matter, all treated of in less than two hundred pages, much of which is occupied by drawings, must be very sketchy. Still, there is to be found a great deal of information; and although we should be far from recommending it to a student as the best book he could read on pathology, there are few who will not pick up much useful knowledge from its perusal.

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*Handbuch der physikalischen Therapie.* Herausgegeben von DR. A. GOLDSCHIEDER und DR. PAUL JACOB. Theil I. Band I. Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1901. Pp. 563.

THIS is the first instalment of what promises to be a monumental work. The editors tell us that, impressed by the appearance in 1897 of v. Leyden's *Handbuch der Ernährungs Therapie und Diätetik*, they felt that the physical remedial methods ought to be treated of in a similar encyclopædic way to that in which food and diet were in the above-named book. They have secured a large staff of writers whose names appear on the title page, and which number among them many of the most eminent European professors and teachers.

It is intended that the handbook shall—(1) treat of the technique and method of application of the different physical remedies; (2) give the scientific foundation for their action; (3) establish the indications and contra-indications for their use; (4) show the relation which they have to other methods of treatment; (5) set forth objectively and critically the results hitherto attained by their employment; and (6) so discuss the application of physical methods in the different diseases that they may take a due place with other methods in the whole treatment of each case.

Of course, it will not be possible to do more than to give a general outline of the plan followed in each chapter. There is first a historical section, in which are given all the phases which the method under discussion has gone through

from the earliest historical times down to the present. Then there is a physiological section giving the effects which are produced on the healthy organism by the agent in question; and finally, a section on the technique of the method and its applicability to the different diseases and classes of patients. Each of these sections is frequently subdivided under several sub-headings.

In the present part we have eight chapters—

I. *Climatotherapy*.—The historical section by Professor Pagel, the climatological and physiological sections by Professor Rubner, and the medical section by Professor Nothnagel.

II. *Treatment by Residence in Elevated Places*.—Physiological section by Dr. Loewy, medical section by Professor Eichhorst.

III. *Pneumatotherapy, or Treatment by Compressed and Rarefied Air*.—Historical section by Professor Pagel, physiological by Dr. R. du Bois-Reymond; methods by Dr. G. V. Liebig.

IV. *Inhalation Treatment*, by Professor Lazarus.

V. *Treatment by Baths*.—History by Professor Pagel, other sections by Professors Liebermeister and Glax.

VI. *Thalassotherapy, or Treatment by Sea Air, Sea Baths, and Sea Voyages*.—History by Dr. Marcuse, other sections by Dr. Hiller and Sir Hermann Weber.

VII. *Hydrotherapy*.—History by Dr. Marcuse, physiology by Professor Winternitz, medical by Dr. Strasser and Professor Winternitz.

VIII. *Thermotherapy, or Treatment by Application of Heat and Cold*.—History by Dr. Marcuse, physiology by Professor Goldscheider, medical by Dr. Friedlaender.

In looking over the different articles one cannot but be surprised at the extent and variety of the information given by all the writers, and there can be no doubt that when the work is completed it will form a most valuable book of reference, and contain all that is known or conjectured on the subjects with which it deals. But, at the same time, when one sees such works as these huge handbooks, he cannot but think that life is short, and ask himself whether he could not spend the time necessary for the perusal of even one of

the articles more usefully both for himself and for his patients. We think that the expansion of medical literature not only in the number but in the size of the books is rather to be regretted, and that condensation and easy reference are not as much attended to as is desirable. The work is admirably printed and copiously illustrated by figures in the text.

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*Diseases of the Nervous System: a Text-Book for Students and Practitioners of Medicine.* By H. OPPENHEIM, M.D. Authorised Translation by EDWARD E. MAYER, A.M., M.D. First American from the Second Revised and Enlarged German Edition. London: J. B. Lippincott. 1901. Pp. 899.

PROFESSOR OPPENHEIM'S great and deserved reputation as a neurologist makes it almost unnecessary to say that this is a good book. It has met with a cordial reception on the Continent, and the translation is a valuable addition to English medical literature.

The work is intended not so much for scientific workers as for practitioners, and, in accordance with this design, less space is devoted to pathological anatomy than is usual in text-books of its size, and attention is chiefly directed to symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

The descriptions of the symptoms are remarkably clear and precise, and the essential diagnostic points are given with great judgment and knowledge. As to the treatment, it is, in a large number of cases, as unsatisfactory as in other books on nervous diseases, but whatever treatment has been found useful is given, and, what is no less important, the author expresses himself emphatically against those measures which are often employed, but which he has found useless or injurious. It would be, perhaps, invidious in a work of such general excellence to single out any one part for special commendation; but we may direct attention to the section on the neuroses. Such conditions as hysteria, neurasthenia, and other so-called functional disorders of the nervous system are described with an admirable discretion and fulness of detail, while

the directions for the treatment of these troublesome complaints are laid down with the judgment and wisdom of a master.

On page 71 we find a new hypothesis put forward in explanation of trophic disturbances, which we reproduce *in extenso* :—

“We assume that the function of the spinal ganglia may receive a wrong impulse, a diseased irritation; that these can only functionate normally when the stimulations from the periphery are permitted to be transmitted undisturbed to the centre. Diseases of the spinal cord which inhibit the conduction of sensory stimulation produce an accumulation of impulses in the cells of the spinal ganglion which affect injuriously its trophic function, so that an increase of nutritive change occurs in the periphery. In the same way, affections of the peripheral nerves, without a complete break in conduction, cause irritative conditions which are transmitted to the trophic centre, and impair its function, so that nutritive changes result in the corresponding nerve area.”

The author has never seen an instance in which he could convince himself that a neuritis may ascend a nerve trunk to the spinal cord and produce inflammation there.

An hereditary form of lead paralysis is described, and a case figured.

There is a very good chapter on General Paralysis; a condition which is so liable to be mistaken for others that, as the author says, it should be described in every book on nervous diseases.

A condition resembling bulbar paralysis, but having cerebral lesions as its cause, is described under the term Pseudo-bulbar Paralysis. It is “characterised by a labio-glosso-pharyngeal paralysis coming on in different attacks, which are followed mostly by bilateral, occasionally by unilateral, hemiplegia. The paralysed muscles retain their *normal volume* and their *normal electric excitability*. The *reflex excitability* is generally intact in the region innervated by the bulbar nerves.” Multiple cerebral sclerosis, or atheroma causing multiple softening, hæmorrhage, &c., and affecting the cortical centres or their commissural fibres, is usually the cause of the disease.

The text is illustrated by 293 figures, many of which are good, but there are some which admit of improvement. The print, paper, and binding of the volume leave nothing to desire.

The translation of a book such as this must have been a work of considerable difficulty, and on the whole Dr. Mayer has succeeded fairly well. The meaning of the author is seldom in doubt, but the style is jerky and disagreeable, while the translator has gratuitously introduced many new words not usually recognised as belonging to the English language. Thus we find such words as *functionate*, *hydriatic*, *familial*, *trunkal* (sometimes spelt *truncal*), *drooling*, *psychiater*, *deglutitory*, and many others; we read of a *neurotic make-up*, and symptoms are frequently described as *bothersome*. In some places we think the sense of the original must have been misapprehended, as in the following passages:—"There exist vaso-dilator and vaso-constrictor nerves, the last having been observed, however, only in certain places, as the chorda tympani, nervi erigentes, and sciatic;" and "It is not advisable to repress the suppuration too long." Further we read—"In hypertrophic sclerosis *excrescences* are formed in the brain substance." We fail to understand the meaning of *excrescences* in this passage. In other places curious mixtures of Latin and English occur, such as "cutaneous femoris nerve." We think it a matter of great regret that our students, led by the great excellence of much of the American work, should become accustomed to such barbarisms in style as some of those we have adduced.

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*L'Evolution du Pigment.* Par le DR. G. BOHN. Paris: Georges Carré and C. Naud. 1901. Pp. 96.

THIS volume is one of an admirable series of scientific monographs called *Scientia*. Some of the volumes treat of physico-mathematical questions; others, of which this is one, of biological questions. They are written by men well qualified from their position and studies to deal with their respective subjects. The works are short, well printed, and of very moderate price.

In the volume before us the author, in an introduction, speaks of what he calls the ancestors of the cell. We are in the habit of regarding the cell as the primary living matter, but before this, we had the *plastidules*, minute homogeneous organisms, endowed with the power of resisting high temperatures, and of nourishing themselves on inorganic matter. These have long ago disappeared, but we may consider the bacteria, chloroleucytes, and pigmentary granules as transitional forms between the plastidules and the cells as we find them now.

We cannot follow the author through his interesting memoir, much of which is theoretical, although his work is by no means wanting in experimental research.

He concludes that the production of pigment is a mechanism for defence, that is, for the conservation of the chemical constancy of living matter—the pigment itself has preserved its constancy in the course of the evolution of cellular organisms.

To all who have a taste for the more abstract questions of biology, we can cordially recommend the work of Dr. Bohn.

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*Masters of Medicine. Thomas Sydenham.* By JOSEPH FRANK PAYNE, M.D. Oxon.; Fellow and Harveian Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians; late Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. London: T. Fisher Unwin. MDCCCC. 8vo. Pp. 264.

WE owe the author and publisher of this entertaining volume an apology for the delay which has occurred in noticing it. The reading of its pages has been a genuine pleasure. It is an eminently readable book, and full justice has been done in its pages to Thomas Sydenham as a man and as a physician.

Thomas Sydenham was born at Wynford Eagle, a hamlet lying about eight miles from Dorchester, and baptised September 10, 1624. He was the fifth son of William Sydenham, of Winford Eagle, and Mary, his wife, daughter of Sir John Jeffery, Knt., of Catherston. He died on December 29, 1689, at his house in Pall Mall, and was buried, December 31, in St. James's Church, West-



minster, now generally known as St. James's, Piccadilly. The original monument or inscription which marked his grave having disappeared, a tablet was placed in the Church at the expense of the Royal College of Physicians of London, in 1810, bearing the following epitaph:—

“ Prope Hunc Locum sepultus est

“ Thomas Sydenham,

“ Medicus in omne ævum nobilis.

“ Natus erat A.D. 1624,

“ Vixit annos 65.

“ Deletis veteris Sepulchri vestigiis,

“ Ne rei Memoria interiret,

“ Hoc marmor poni jussit Collegium

“ Regale Medicorum Londinense, A.D. 1810,

“ Optime merito.”

The earlier chapters of Dr. Payne's interesting memoir give an account of Sydenham's youth and military services with the Parliamentarians in the troublous times of Charles I. and of the Commonwealth. They give an instructive insight into the history of the times and into the conditions of life at that period, but they do not concern the medical reader directly, and so we, too, may pass them by.

Chapter V. tells us what little is known of Sydenham's life in London and at Montpellier, at which French seat of learning he is supposed to have been the pupil of a celebrated physician named Charles Barbeyrac, a native of Provence. From Montpellier Sydenham returned to London in 1661, shortly after the Restoration, beginning in that year his observations, afterwards published, on Weather and Diseases in London. He was admitted a Licentiate of the College of Physicians on June 25, 1663, but he never attained the higher rank of Fellow of the College. He continued to practise in London until June, 1665, when he retired with his family into the country owing to the violence of the plague. Sydenham has been blamed for this apparent panic fear of a disease however dreadful, but his biographer adduces good reasons for not too hastily condemning him. At all events, it is to this temporary retirement that posterity owes Sydenham's writings on fevers.

Dr. Payne gives an interesting account of these writings, but we altogether take exception to this sentence (page 116)—“Sydenham, it is true, included some acute diseases not now reckoned as fevers, such as Pneumonia, Erysipelas, and Rheumatism.” Why, the first-named of these diseases might well be quoted as a typical example of everything that the word “fever” means. Its specific infection, mode of onset, symptoms, course, and critical defervescence all constitute it a fever of fevers. And much the same may be said of erysipelas and even of acute rheumatism.

Sydenham’s essay on fevers was a small octavo of 156 pages, entitled “*Thomæ Sydenhami Methodus Curandi Febres, propriis observationibus superstructa.*” It was dedicated to the Hon. Robert Boyle, who may be spoken of as the Founder of the Royal Society. Dr. Payne says the “Preface to the Reader” displays so well the noble and lofty spirit in which Sydenham regarded his work as a physician, that he gives the following translation of its opening sentences:—

“Whoever applies himself to medicine ought seriously to weigh the following considerations:—First, that he will one day have to render an account to the Supreme Judge of the lives of sick persons committed to his care. Next, whatever skill or knowledge he may, by the Divine favour, become possessed of, should be devoted above all things to the glory of God and the welfare of the human race. Moreover, let him remember that it is not any base or despicable creature of which he has undertaken the cure. For the only begotten Son of God, by becoming man, recognised the value of the human race, and ennobled by His own dignity the nature He assumed. Finally, the physician should bear in mind that he himself is not exempt from the common lot, but subject to the same laws of mortality and disease as others; and he will care for the sick with more diligence and tenderness if he remembers that he himself is their fellow-sufferer.”

Sydenham’s views as to the intimate nature of the fever process were sound, and far in advance of his time. What his views were may be gathered from an early notice of his book, which appeared—probably from the pen of one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society, Hooke or Oldenburgh—in the second volume of the “*Philosophical Trans-*

actions," under date May 6, 1666. The following is an extract from that review:—

"This book undertakes to deliver a more certain and more genuine method of curing fevers and agues than has appeared hitherto. And it being premised—*First*, that a fever is Nature's engine which she brings into the field to remove her enemy; or her handmaid either for evacuating the impurities of the blood, or for reducing it into a *new state*: *Secondly*, that the true and genuine cure of this sickness consists in such a tempering of the commotion of the blood, that it may neither exceed nor be too languid. This, I say, being premised by the author, he informs the reader," &c., &c.

Later on in his work, Dr. Payne quotes Sydenham's famous definition of a disease as "*an effort of Nature, striving with all her might to restore the patient by the elimination of the morbid matter.*" As to fever, Dr. Payne tells us that Sydenham "held that the production of excessive heat was a means by which Nature neutralised the injurious matter causing acute diseases, and doubted whether such a disease ever got well without Fever. This idea, almost unintelligible to his contemporaries, has recurred in the most modern Pathology." (Page 227.)

At pages 131 and 134 references are made to Sydenham's doctrine of "Epidemic Constitutions"—a doctrine which, as Dr. Payne well says, "crumbles to pieces" with the withdrawal from England of the formidable epidemics of plague, intermittent fevers, and smallpox, which were so rife in Sydenham's age.

We have already joined issue with Dr. Payne for questioning the claims of pneumonia to be regarded as a specific continued fever. In the sixth division of Sydenham's work, the "Father of English Medicine," as he has been called, insists that pleurisy and pneumonia are due to a general inflammation of the blood which causes the affection of the organs. So with erysipelas, rheumatism, and quinsy. He looked upon them all as *fevers to begin with*, not as feverish diseases arising from the local condition. Criticising this opinion, we are glad to find Dr. Payne expressing himself as follows:—

"Now, though this would not, perhaps, be accepted at the present day as a quite accurate statement of the nature of these diseases,

still it recognises the truth now more and more generally accepted that these diseases are not affections of one part of the body only, but what are called general specific infections. Skoda, the eminent professor of Vienna, held very nearly the same view about pneumonia half a century ago, though it was regarded when he first propounded it as a startling innovation." (Page 135.)

Dr. Payne denies to Sydenham the credit of first clearly distinguishing scarlatina, of which malady his description is strangely inadequate, for he says nothing about the sore-throat or about contagion, and he calls it "Hoc morbi nomen, vix enim altius assurgit." Dr. Payne thinks that Sydenham in his long practice either never saw a bad case of scarlatina, or else when he did see one, he called it by another name. His error, like the errors of all great men, was not without bad consequences, for it largely contributed, in Dr. Payne's opinion, to the misunderstanding of scarlatina and sore throats in the following century.

Hippocrates, Cicero, and Bacon were Sydenham's three great teachers. Cicero he calls "that Great Master of Thought and Language;" Bacon he calls "that Great Genius of Rational Nature." The famous principle of the *Vis Medicatrix naturæ*—"Nature cures diseases," Sydenham derived from Hippocrates and enshrined in his *Methodus curandi Febres*. Among his contemporaries, Robert Boyle and John Locke are those who seem to have made the deepest impression upon him.

One vital fault in Sydenham was his sovereign contempt for the study of Anatomy, Physiology, and Morbid Anatomy. "This blindness to the importance of the whole anatomical school," writes Dr. Payne, "is the only serious defect which can be found in the completeness of Sydenham's character as a Reformer of Medicine." In England at that time the anatomical school meant the school of Harvey. "Two currents of thought," adds Dr. Payne, "the scientific and the practical, always have existed, and always will, in a practical science like Medicine. The daily work of every doctor has to do with both aspects of Medicine. We are happy in having before us two such great examples: Harvey, the master of Science, and Sydenham, the master of Practice."

Dr. Payne's history of Sydenham is well written, and its perusal has given us genuine pleasure. We can recommend the reading of this book to all who desire an intellectual treat.

J. W. M.

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*A Practical Treatise on Genito-Urinary and Venereal Diseases and Syphilis.* By ROBERT W. TAYLOR, M.A., M.D.; Clinical Professor of Venereal Diseases, Columbia University, New York. Second Edition. London: Henry Kimpton. 1901. 8vo. Pp. 722.

IN the second edition, "thoroughly revised," of this work, the author has endeavoured to present to the profession an up-to-date practical and compact treatise upon the subjects treated in this volume. He devotes the first eight chapters to gonorrhœa, and very properly commences by giving a concise description of the pathological, histological, and microscopic characters of the disease. The importance of microscopic investigation in all cases of disease suspected to be of gonorrhœal origin cannot be over-estimated, but it is too frequently overlooked in practice. The final chapter upon gonorrhœa deals with the disease in women; it commences with a statement which is not supported by experience in the Lock Hospital for Women in Dublin. Dr. Taylor states that gonorrhœa of the urethral canal is the most common form observed in women. In this country the disease is generally limited to the vagina, with a coexistent vulvitis, and its invasion of the urethra of the female is a complication fortunately of comparatively rare occurrence.

From the ninth to the twenty-second chapter is practically a separate treatise on diseases of the urethra, bladder and kidneys, irrespective of any connection with venereal disease; it would have been more suitably published either as a separate volume or as a chapter in a book on general surgery than in a work intended as a book of reference upon gonorrhœa and syphilis, with which renal and vesical calculi, sarcoma of the kidneys and other affections mentioned have no direct connection. The twenty-third chapter describes chancroids and local venereal sores, and

contains a number of good coloured illustrations, but nothing original or new.

The concluding portion of the work consists of about twenty-four chapters on syphilis, containing many excellent illustrations of its phenomena. On the whole, the work is well brought out, has a good index, and is likely to be found a useful addition to the libraries of our Colleges.

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*A Manual of Modern Surgery for the use of Students and Practitioners.* By JOHN B. ROBERTS, A.M., M.D.; Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the Philadelphia Polyclinic; Mütter Lecturer on Surgical Pathology of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Illustrated with 473 engravings and 8 plates in colour and monotone. London: Rebman, Limited. 1899. Pp. 842.

IN the preface the author tells us his purpose is to give to the profession in a condensed form the accepted doctrines and approved procedures of modern surgery. In some respects success has attended his efforts, but there appears to us to be a great want of uniformity in the standard of the teaching in many of the articles.

In the earlier chapters we think ulcers and gangrene are very imperfectly described. In fact, there is no description of Potts' senile gangrene at all; while under the heading of treatment we think the advice that a line of demarcation should be waited for in a case of spreading Potts' gangrene before amputating is questionable, for in most of these cases we know the line of demarcation will form about the knee, but before the gangrene has reached that point death will probably have closed the scene.

In the treatment of recent fractures of the patella we are told the best method is to approximate the fractured surfaces by hooks, while, later, Barker's method is mentioned and illustrated. Here the author seems to us to overlook in the treatment he recommends what seems to us the cardinal point in any treatment which has for its object bony union—viz., removal from between the fractured surfaces of the curtain of fibrous tissue which in most cases is found there, and prevents bony union by acting as a foreign body.

No operation will remove this save that one in which the joint is freely opened, such as is done in Lord Lister's operation, and which, in our opinion, though described many years ago, is the only modern operation which will satisfy the condition for which it is undertaken. Subcutaneous pinning is frequently mentioned in the treatment of fractures; but we think such treatment just as dangerous as a free incision over the site of fracture, by which the operator can see exactly what he is doing, and whether he is fastening the bony surfaces accurately together.

In the section on the treatment of empyema the author advises washing out the cavity with carbolic acid lotion 1 in 100, allowing the fluid to flow in by hydrostatic pressure until the patient complains of pain—one or two pints being used at a time. Such practice is, in our opinion, distinctly dangerous, as sudden death has followed the injection of even sterilised water under pressure into the pleural cavity. We think five or six ounces of sterilised water or salt solution quite enough to irrigate with, while there will be no risk of poisoning.

The whole section on abdominal surgery is unsatisfactory, except, perhaps, appendicitis, which is fairly good, though no mention is made of the different positions in which the abscesses arising in connection therewith may appear, while the diagnosis is defective. But few symptoms indicative of the different abdominal lesions are mentioned, while it is exceptional to find a line on the diagnosis of the various conditions met with. The description of the radical cure of hernia is so poor that we defy any student after reading it to have anything but the faintest conception of how the operation should be done. Most practitioners will be glad to know that they can cure moderately severe cases of piles by stretching the sphincter.

Diseases of the testicles are very imperfectly described. In fact no mention at all is made of syphilitic sarcocele; while tubercular sarcocele occupies exactly six and a-half lines, and tumours of the testicle little more than double that number.

The illustrations on the whole are fairly good—some

indeed excellent—but some chapters are insufficiently illustrated; for example, that on the rectum, in which but six illustrations appear, three of which represent instruments, while there is not a single illustration in the chapter on the diseases of the breast. The type, binding, and reproduction of the illustrations is everything that we have been led to expect from the publishers.

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*Archives of the Röntgen Ray.* March, 1901. Vol. V. No. 13.  
London: Rebman.

THE number of this periodical for March, 1901, is particularly well illustrated. There are seven plates which forcibly bear witness to the curative, no less than the diagnostic, value of the X-rays. Five of the plates (CVIII. to CXI. inclusive) are occupied with a series of radiographs from Ladysmith by Lieutenant Bruce, R.A.M.C. They were most useful aids in the treatment of fractures, and the apparatus employed in their production was erected under great difficulties in beleaguered Ladysmith. It, however, worked splendidly, and was of the greatest assistance in locating bullets and in the diagnosis of fractures.

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*A Manual of Clinical Diagnosis by means of Microscopic and Chemical Methods for Students, Hospital Physicians, and Practitioners.* By CHARLES E. SIMON, M.D., late Resident Physician, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, &c. Third Edition, thoroughly revised. Illustrated with 136 Engravings and 18 Plates in Colours. London: Henry Kimpton. 1900. Pp. 558.

THIS is a first-class work, for which we have nothing but praise. It is written very much in the same style as the text-book of von Jaksch, and the scope of the two works is very similar. The book before us, however, is the more complete of the two, and contains more information.

The first chapter treats of the Blood. Taken all round, Dr. Simon's is the fullest article on the subject that we have met; it runs to 115 pages, and is illustrated by eight



coloured plates, which represent satisfactorily the most important of the changes in the blood. The section on White Corpuscles is especially worthy of attention; the plates, too, of the parasite of Tertian, of Aestivo-autumnal, and of Quartan Fevers are excellent.

Then the modes of examination of the digestive system are described. The section on the fæces is particularly full and valuable. The nasal secretion and the sputum are well described, and a large portion of the book is devoted to the urine, 231 pages being assigned to this subject.

From what we have said, it will be seen that we regard Dr. Simon's clinical diagnosis as a most valuable book of reference; and as such we warmly recommend it.

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*Transactions of the Association of American Physicians.*

Fourteenth Session. Philadelphia: Printed for the Association. Pp. 366.

WE have, when reviewing former volumes of these Transactions, expressed the opinion that they, considering their size, form a record of more scientific and careful work than do the published volumes of any other Society that we are acquainted with. The volume before us is no exception to this rule. It shows that many of the members of the Association are doing excellent original work.

One of the most interesting papers to us at the present time is that by Dr. Vaughan on Typhoid Fever in the American Army during the Spanish War. The conclusion arrived at by Dr. Vaughan as to the way in which the disease was propagated in the camps is that the epidemic was due mainly to direct infection from the fæces of the camp, particles being conveyed to the healthy by flies, by the boots or hands of the men, or in some such way. He lays much stress on the necessity for the complete sterilisation of all fæcal matter if typhoid is to be prevented in camps which are occupied for three weeks or longer. He recommends that each company should be furnished with a specially constructed galvanised iron trough. This trough is to be partially filled with a solution of lime, and

is to be emptied daily by means of an odourless excavator. The discussion on his paper is printed at length, and is very interesting to read, with reference to the prevalence of typhoid in South Africa.

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*Difficult Digestion due to Displacements.* By A. SYMONS ECCLES, M.B., M.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1899. Pp. 138.

THIS is a careful essay on a subject which for long was overlooked; it is written by one who has had a large experience in the treatment of displacements of the abdominal viscera. Dr. Eccles, as is shown by the notes of cases published in this book, has devoted much time and attention to the symptoms indicative of displacements, and to their appropriate treatment.

The book is divided into four chapters, in which Gastropsis, Movable Kidney, General Enteroposis, and Prolapse of the Sigmoid Flexure are discussed. The views of the writer and the effects of treatment are rendered more evident by the free introduction of illustrative cases from Dr. Eccles' note books; and the position of organs, as discovered in many patients, is made clear by means of diagrams.

The book represents real work and will repay perusal. We could, however, wish that the author had been more careful of style in his writing. "Gastro- and other ptosis of abdominal organs" is not a nice sounding sentence, and "visceroposis" is a barbarous word.

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*Lectures on Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology, as delivered at the London Hospital.* By FRED. J. SMITH, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Physician to and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine at the London Hospital; Medical Referee to the Home Office, &c. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1900. Pp. 396.

THIS is an excellent book for students. It represents in detail the lectures which Dr. Smith has been in the habit of delivering at the London Hospital for some years past.

The style is condensed owing to exigencies of space, and the author in matters which are unsettled has wisely refrained from referring to those views of the correctness of which he was doubtful. The style is clear and easy to read. Many important points are set forth in tabular form—a feature which will be popular with those who are making up the book for examination purposes. The author not only states that certain facts *are* so, but as far as possible gives the reasons *why* they are so—thus both making the facts easier to remember and also enabling the student to grasp the principles which underlie our knowledge.

The book is well printed, and its price (7s. 6d.) is moderate—a point of importance to students. We can cordially recommend it as the best students' work on the subject.

*Cancer of the Stomach: a Clinical Study.* By WILLIAM OSLER, M.D., F.R.S., and THOMAS M'CRAE, M.B. Tor., L.R.C.P. Lond.; of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. London: H. K. Lewis. 1900. Pp. 157.

THIS is an excellent and comprehensive work. Based as it is on the authors' wide experience, and on the statistics of a number of skilled observers, it may truly be said that what is not contained in this book concerning cancer of the stomach is not worth much. The points brought forward are elucidated by means of many illustrative cases; there are a number of figures and diagrams; and altogether the book is a most satisfactory one.

We may refer to a few of the points which have specially attracted our attention. (1) The opinion is often expressed that such and such a case cannot be one of cancer of the stomach, because the patient has never vomited. The statistics collected by Drs. Osler and M'Crae show that in 15 per cent. of their patients there never was any vomiting; and that even out of thirty cases in which the pyloric or cardiac orifices were involved, in six there was no vomiting.

(2.) Hydrochloric acid.—In eight per cent. of their cases its presence was observed, and these were not cases in which a cancer had developed on the base of an old ulcer.

(3.) *Mobility.*—There are some most important records and diagrams showing how extremely movable a tumour of the stomach may be. In some cases the pylorus could be pushed into almost every region of the abdomen.

(4.) There is an interesting chapter on the contracted or atrophic cancerous stomach, a condition to which but few references can be found in works on the subject, and which may be very difficult to distinguish from cirrhosis of the stomach.

The last chapter relates to treatment. The authors hope that in time an early operation may be more frequently done than is the case at present. They suggest that in doubtful cases, where it is possible from the symptoms that a cancer may be beginning to grow, an exploratory operation should be done; and to emphasise the importance of an early operation they quote with approval the saying of Czerny that “the presence of a positively diagnosed tumour is a contra-indication to radical operation.”

*Cancer.* Illustrated by 1,000 Cases from the Registers of the Middlesex Hospital, and by 50 Selected Cases of Cancer of the Breast. By THOMAS WILLIAM NUNN, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital. London: H. J. Glazier. Pp. 89.

WE quite fail to see why this little book was written: it does not appear to add to our knowledge of cancer. More than half the book is taken up with notes of 50 cases of cancer of the breast, which are not of any special importance or interest. We cannot recommend the work to any class of readers.

*The Royal University of Ireland.* The Calendar for the Year 1901. Dublin: Alex. Thom & Co. 1901. 8vo. Pp. 485.

*The Royal University of Ireland.* Examination Papers, 1900. A Supplement to the University Calendar for the Year 1901. Dublin: Ponsonby & Weldrick. 1901. 8vo. Pp. 767.

THESE useful books will be found indispensable by under-

graduates—actual or prospective—of the Royal University of Ireland. In the Calendar especial attention should be directed to the changes in the Courses and in the Regulations for 1902, which are given at pages 195, *et seq.* The changes which more immediately concern medical students and candidates for the Diploma in Sanitary Science will be found at page 213.

The Examination Papers are, as usual, beautifully printed and with precise accuracy by Messrs. Ponsonby & Weldrick at the University Press, Trinity College, Dublin.

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*Atlas and Epitome of Diseases caused by Accidents.* By DR. ED. GOLEBIEWSKI, of Berlin. Authorised translation from the German, with editorial notes and additions by PEARCE BAILEY, M.D.; Consulting Neurologist to St. Luke's Hospital, and the Orthopædic Hospital, New York, and to St. John's Hospital, Yonkers; Assistant in Neurology, Columbia University; author of "Accidents and Injury: their Relations to Diseases of the Nervous System." Pp. 549. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1900.

THE profession has already shown its appreciation of these hand Atlases and Epitomes introduced by the Germans, most of which have been translated into English. In the volume before us we have to welcome a valuable addition. Though not so profusely illustrated with coloured plates as some of its predecessors, still it leaves but little to be desired. There are 40 coloured plates and 143 illustrations in black. While the volume itself contains but 549 pages, the illustrations and plates thus form a large proportion of the book. The present addition to the series is not only a valuable one to the profession generally, but will be of especial advantage to anyone acting as medical referee to the accident department of insurance companies, as, following the plan of the German law, the amount of indemnity is granted according to the disability.

The plates are excellently reproduced, and the publishers and authors are alike to be congratulated.