

ART. XXXV.—*Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical*. By HENRY GRAY, F. R. S. The Drawings by H. V. CARTER, M. D., with additional drawings in the second and later editions by Dr. WESTMACOTT. The Dissections jointly by the author and Dr. CARTER. With an Introduction on General Anatomy and Development by T. HOLMES, Surgeon to St. George's Hospital. A new American, from the fifth and enlarged English edition. With four hundred and sixty-two engravings on wood. Imp. 8vo. pp. 876. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea. 1870.

THE new edition of this very valuable treatise is in many respects an improvement upon the editions which have preceded it. Those already familiar with the work will be struck at a glance with the more systematic arrangement of the subjects embraced in it. General Anatomy, for instance, has been isolated from the departments of Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy, with which it had been previously incorporated, and now occupies an important position in an elaborate and instructive introductory chapter of eighty-three pages. Much labour has evidently been expended in the preparation of the very recent English edition, of which this is a transcript, and new cuts and a large amount of matter have been added, to keep this useful work thoroughly up to the requirements of the day, and to preserve its reputation as the best exponent of the present state of anatomical science, which the student can consult. The advantages presented in the method of copious illustration by large cuts, abundantly lettered on the block itself, on the very point of interest described in the text, whether it be process, muscle, tendon, artery, or nerve, have long since been recognized by teacher and student alike, and have contributed largely to the wide-spread popularity which this anatomical text-book has attained on both sides of the Atlantic.

R. J. D.

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ART. XXXVI.—*Prolapsus, Fistula in Ano, and other Diseases of the Rectum, their Pathology and Treatment*. By T. J. ASHTON, Consulting Physician to the Marylebone Infirmary, etc. etc. Third edition. Crown 8vo. pp. viii., 175. London: John Churchill & Sons. 1870.

THOSE of our readers who are familiar with Mr. Ashton's well-known *Treatise on the Diseases, Injuries, and Malformations of the Rectum, etc.*, which has reached a fourth edition in England and a second in this country, need not to be told that anything from our author's pen upon the important subject of rectal diseases will be full of useful, and practical information.

The present small volume (which, as may be seen from its title page, is itself in its third edition) is designed, as we learn from the preface, to give to busy practitioners "a practical description of those affections of the rectum which by their frequency more constantly claim attention, apart from those of more rare occurrence." After a few pages devoted to introductory remarks, in which our author refers to the wide prevalence of rectal diseases, the importance of the surgeon who undertakes their treatment being not a *specialist* but an accomplished *general* practitioner, and the use of rectal specula, enemata, and perineal douches, Mr. Ashton enters at once upon his subject, considering in succession Prolapsus of the Rectum, Fistula in Ano, Hæmorrhoidal Affections, Fissure of the Rectum, and Malignant Diseases of the Rectum. Mr. Ashton's remarks upon each of these subjects are eminently judicious, and the treatment advised such as the best surgeons of the present day are in the habit of recommending. We know of no volume which gives in such convenient form and in such condensed manner a satisfactory account of the pathology and treatment of the more frequent rectal diseases.

Here we would be glad to stop ; but it is our duty to point out to our readers that this whole volume is extracted, almost verbatim, and with but a few trifling additions, from the author's larger work, which was referred to in our opening paragraph. This plan of making two books out of one is convenient, and may be advantageous in a pecuniary point of view, but is scarcely fair to the purchaser, unless it be much more distinctly stated in the preface than is the case in this instance, that the new book is in fact but a part of the old one. As to the *originality* of the old one, we would invite our readers to refer to the Bibliographical Notices of the *second* and *fourth* editions, which appeared in the numbers of this Journal for April, 1858, p. 487, and Jan. 1864, p. 225. We regret to be obliged to say that Mr. Ashton has not profited by the animadversions of our distinguished predecessors in the critical department of this Journal, and gives in the volume now before us even less indication of his obligations to Dr. Bushe's monograph, than in previous issues of his work. Perhaps Mr. Ashton thinks that by having continuously used Dr. Bushe's brains without acknowledgment for sixteen years, he has acquired a right (by what our legal brethren call "prescription") to go on doing so for an indefinite period. J. A., JR.

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ART. XXXVII.—*Reports on the Progress of Practical and Scientific Medicine in different parts of the World.* (For the year beginning June 1, 1868, and ending June 1, 1869.) Edited by HORACE DOBELL, M. D., Senior Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, &c. &c.; assisted by numerous and distinguished coadjutors. 8vo. pp. 645. London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer, 1870.

A SECOND series of labourers will soon be required to prepare periodical epitomes of the rapidly multiplying Medical and Surgical Year Books, Abstracts, and Compendiums. The present large volume is, however, constructed on a new basis, the author's somewhat bold and very extensive plan being "to bring together in the English language original and independent reports from all parts of the world, written by distinguished men, resident in the countries which they represent." This method of proceeding will doubtless secure papers much more fresh, full, and attractive, than such as can be furnished by the writers of any one nation. The chief practical difficulty will be found in the great accumulation of material, and in the necessity of repeating many statements of essentially the same character. Dr. Dobell averts, at the outset, any close criticism of this first year's "Reports," by asking his readers to accept it as merely "a fragmentary hostage of the next." It was only in December, 1868, that he designed the work, and the subsequent period was too short for completing the necessary correspondence with remote regions. There is, therefore, a marked disproportion in the scope of the several sections. America is represented by only twenty-two pages, although the author was "particularly desirous" to obtain many more. China and India supply a few notes, the pledges of more numerous ones in subsequent issues. The abstract from Great Britain and Ireland occupies one-third of the volume, and those from Germany and France one-fifth. The last named, from the pen of Prof. Villemin, is particularly valuable. There is an interesting contribution from Iceland, chiefly upon the endemic echinococcus disease; and one from Denmark and Sweden, by Dr. Rasmussen. Heather Bigg presents a complete and very readable account of "Mechanical Appliances, Instruments, and Inventions." The subject of "Climate" receives extended notice in a paper on "Change of Climate in the treatment of Chronic Diseases," and in others having special reference to Minnesota, Riviera, Algeria, and the West Coast of Africa. Articles of considerable length appear to be included in Dr. Dobell's plan, and reference is made to one upon tubercle by Dr. Andrew Clark, which was not ready in time for publication. Nearly all the year's work on this subject has, however, been recounted in the reports from different countries.