

BOOK REVIEWS.

Atlas of Clinical Medicine. By BYROM BRANWELL, M. D., F. R. C. P., Edin.; F. R. S., Edin.; Assistant Physician to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, etc., etc. Vol. I, Parts III and IV. Edinburgh: Printed by T. & A. Constable, at the University Press.

Parts III and IV of this very excellent work meet the high expectations which the two first fasciculi raised. Part III is especially interesting, as it deals with some obscure nervous diseases, more or less closely allied if not directly related to each other, whose pathology is not yet definitely determined, and about which the opinions of the author from his vast experience and great work in this particular direction are of great value. Progressive unilateral atrophy of the face, chronic bulbar paralysis, ophthalmoplegia, molluscum fibrosum and xeroderma pigmentosum make up the contents of this fasciculus. The author presents from his own practice two interesting cases of progressive unilateral atrophy of the face, and after discussing the various theories in regard to the seat of the lesion, central, neuritic, vaso-motor, etc., concludes that it is of central origin, a degenerative atrophy of the nucleus of the fifth nerve with probable involvement of the hypoglossal, analogous, therefore, to progressive (spinal) muscular atrophy. He does not consider the possibility in some cases of a local muscular lesion such as Erb discovered in some cases of progressive muscular atrophy.

A case of chronic progressive bulbar paralysis of unusually short (three months) duration, is mentioned. It is thought, however, to have existed a much longer time unnoticed. The lesion, he thinks, is probably at first central and then extends to the nerves and muscles, though he admits the possibility of its seat being primarily peripheral, in the nerves or muscles.

Ophthalmoplegia, the author makes very clear, a disease which the best German teachers have failed to thoroughly grasp. He considers most minutely its causation, and shows how simple the prognosis is when one has thoroughly sifted the ætiology. Ophthalmoplegia, therefore, due to a local neuritis, would give a favorable prognosis, while that resulting from a degenerative atrophy of the nerve nuclei, or caused by a coarse lesion such as tumors, aneurisms, inflammatory deposits, etc., would be less favorable or hopeless.

Part IV contains a thorough and very readable article on Small Pox and "An Account of a Remarkable Case of Globulinuria." The patient passed daily enormous amounts of mixed proteids, estimated by Esbach's method at times as high as 7.5 per cent, with practically no symptoms whatever. The patient was under observation for sixteen months, and was then taken with the influenza and died. The post-mortem examination showed a slight degree of cirrhosis of the kidneys; the tubules were normal; the epithelium apparently normal, the liver intensely fatty. No explanation of the case or of the unusual deposit of the crystals of globulin which appeared in the urine is given.

Notes of three new cases of Friedreich's disease, together with descriptions of plates illustrating cases of mental disease, complete this fasciculus.

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The plates accompanying these two parts are exceptionally strong and life-like, especially those depicting melancholia and mania. Although the subject matter is well worthy of the magnificent form in which it is issued, it is to be feared that the volumes on account of their bulk may not in this ease-loving age be so often consulted as their contents deserve.

A. M.

The Principles and Practice of Medicine. Designed for the Use of Practitioners and Students of Medicine. By WILLIAM OSLER, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Professor of Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University, and Physician-in-Chief to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; formerly Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal; and Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1892. Pp. xvi, 1079.

The difficulty of condensing all the essentials of internal medicine within the compass of a single volume increases from year to year. To do it with any reasonable degree of success, an author must exclude many things that are interesting and valuable. Reviews of the history and literature of the subject treated, descriptions and histories of cases, discussions of mooted points, can be but sparingly admitted. An author who is competent to write such a work will be able to occupy all the space at his disposal with his own views on the pathology, diagnosis and treatment of the ever-lengthening list of diseases.

In the work before us we find abundant evidence that a wide acquaintance with the literature of medicine has been tested and supplemented by an extensive experience and a discriminating judgment. The author knows what other people think, but he does not take his opinions at second hand. His style is clear, concise and forcible; his descriptions of disease fasten upon the salient and important points, and the book is, throughout, up with the times.

We incline to think that the limitations imposed by the size of the work make themselves felt as much in the portions devoted to treatment as anywhere. We do not find fault with the scanty notice or omission of measures in which the author has no faith, although there are probably few of his readers who will not find some of their pet remedies treated with little respect, but to the lack of detail, in many cases, in setting forth his own plan of treatment. It is reasonable to expect that many a young practitioner, whose professional library occupies only a single shelf, will have no other authority than this book on the subjects of which he treats. Such a one might feel disappointed if, for instance, after having recognized a case of Landry's paralysis by the description, he should find not a word said in regard to therapeutics. To be sure, there is not very much to be said in this case, but a section on the plan of the renowned chapter on the snakes of Iceland might help to set his mind at rest. To take another case, in which a great deal may be done by treatment, the directions for washing out the nostrils in cases of nasal diphtheria would not insure thoroughness, and nothing is said of the frequency with which it should be done.

Professor Osler gives his readers the full benefit of recent researches on the relation of micro-organisms to disease. He treats of pulmonary consumption, not among diseases of the lungs, but with other forms of tuberculosis,