

found throughout the work, and which are of value to the student also. On the whole, the work is well adapted for the place it is intended to fill.

It is well printed upon good paper, and the execution of the wood-cuts is much better than is often found in works printed on this side of the Atlantic.

H. B. H.

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ART. XXXVIII.—*On the Results of Thyrotomy for the Removal of Growths from the Larynx.* By MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D. Lond.; Physician to the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat; Senior Assistant Physician to the London Hospital, etc. 8vo. pp. 22. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

THIS decidedly controversial brochure is published by the author in reply to Mr. Durham's paper, read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. It is an admirable illustration of how learned doctors can have a lively disagreement over dry statistics. Mr. Durham, having selected a limited number of cases, comes to the conclusion "that the dangers and difficulties attending the operation [of thyrotomy for the removal of growths from the larynx] are neither so numerous nor so considerable as have been represented and commonly supposed," and urges an "earlier, bolder, and more ready resort to this method."

Mr. Mackenzie, who has carefully tabulated the same and additional cases of thyrotomy reported, making forty-eight in all, comes to directly opposite conclusions. The high rate of mortality (over 8 per cent.) attending this operation, the greater or less impairment of the voice ensuing in nearly one-half of the cases, the frequent recurrence of even benign tumours, and the fact that many of the cases thus operated upon had to continue wearing the tracheal canula, are very ably urged by Mr. Mackenzie, and laryngoscopists in general, as reasons why the extra-laryngeal method "should be confined to those cases in which there is danger to life from suffocation or dysphagia, and then only be performed after an experienced laryngoscopist has pronounced it impossible to remove the growth *per vias naturales*."

We have never but once seen this operation performed, and that was the unfortunate case of Schrötter, where, even after the larynx had been split open, it was found impossible to remove the entire growth. We fear that thyrotomy, despite the prominence given to it by this protracted controversy, is doomed to comparative neglect, unless much more brilliant results are added, or until it be required for the introduction of some kind of artificial vocal apparatus that remains yet to be discovered.

R. M. B.

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ART. XXXIX.—*Essays on Diseases of Children.* By WILLIAM HENRY DAY, M.D., M.R.C.P., Physician to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children. 12mo., pp. 191. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

THIS little volume contains six papers, three of which, we are told in the preface, have already been given to the profession through the media of the *St. Andrews Graduates' Association Transactions*, the *Lancet*, and *British Medical Journal*; the remainder were read before the Harveian Society of London. They treat of—1, Debility in Children; 2, Remittent Fever; 3, Obscure Cerebral Disease; 4, Headaches; 5, Laryngeal and Tracheal Irritation; 6, Croup;