

## Reviews and Notices of Books.

*On Cough: its Causes, Varieties, and Treatment; with some Practical Remarks on the Use of the Stethoscope as an Aid to Diagnosis.* By ROBT. HUNTER SEMPLE, M.D., M.R.C.P.L., Physician to the Northern Dispensary, &c. pp. 174. London: Churchill.

No rule can be more important than that which maintains "a disease is to be treated, and not merely its symptoms." Yet all practical men are aware that, on the one hand, there exist many affections relative to which medicine cannot as yet boast much more knowledge than of their symptoms; and on the other, the latter are what constantly seem to the patient to chiefly incommode him, and attention to which he urgently demands. To the man who is sleepless and demands rest; who has flatulent distention and acidity of the stomach, and asks relief; who is distended by dropsical effusion and seeks its release; or who is annoyed by cough and begs for some alleviation,—a dose of morphia, of potash, of henbane, &c., or the use of the trocar and canula to relieve distention, will constantly afford more comfort and do him as much real good as the most skilful therapeutic directed merely against the presumed causes or essential pathology of such troublesome symptoms. But of course the nearer the treatment tends to affect *both*, so much the better. Dr. Semple has here undertaken to point out the various pathologic causes giving rise to that most wearying of all symptoms, *Coughing*, and to lay down the treatment peculiar to each case. His essay is far, however, from being a treatise upon one symptom only; it embraces much important information relative to affections of the respiratory organs generally, and deals as well with the anatomy and physiology of the parts concerned in "cough" as with the pathology and treatment of it. The work is evidently intended more especially for the student and young practitioner, than for the advanced disciple of the healing art. It is thoroughly practical, and written in a clear and unaffected manner; and if sometimes appearing to step a little too far beyond the range of "coughing" in its topics, the points it touches upon are, at any rate, such as cannot too frequently and too urgently be impressed upon the memory.

*On Dislocations and Fractures.* By JOSEPH MACLISE, F.R.C.S. Fasciculus II. London: John Churchill.

THIS fasciculus includes drawings illustrative of the fractures and dislocations of the ribs, sternum, and clavicle. They are executed with all the author's well-known skill, although with somewhat less of pictorial beauty than marked the first fasciculus. Nothing, however, could exceed the careful accuracy with which the more important parts are elaborated, and these engravings are as valuable as they are unique in our literature. It were greatly to be desired that Mr. MacLise should wield the pen with the same force and natural clearness with which he uses the pencil. The letter-press of the part, strange to say, is devoted to "a new theory of circulation"! and the occasion is not more inappropriate than the theory untenable and the dialect in which it is expressed complex and unintelligible. The exordium runs thus:—

"In the beginning, when Harvey and originality (imitating that immortal fiat in *Genesis*, which made Harvey after its own image) looked upon the Chaos of Animal Physiology, and saw that it was without form and void, and that darkness was upon the face of the deep, he evoked an order and a system from it; and setting in the midst (as a sun) his Theory of Circulation, he said, 'Let there be light!' and there was light. . . . From the meridian of London, the solar light of the Harveian doctrine, such as it is, has shed its influence, to illuminate half the non-rotatory English globe. From London let the other half be also lighted. But how is this to be accomplished? By an antipodal light—if only by a moon!"

Mr. MacLise then asserts that "the heart, being fixed, can only impel the blood through half a circle of the fixed body!"

and that "the thorax is the only motor power whereby the venous circulation can be effected." Sixteen propositions are laid down, which are only remarkable for the extraordinary logical fallacies by which they are defended, and the singular mummery of the language in which the discussion is conducted. Finally we arrive at the following conclusion:—

"The thorax will be still the centripetal actor for the circulating blood, and the heart still only as the centrifugal actor, although the contrary is still proclaimed, even from the rock of Harvey, which hurtles so in danger o'er its base. This is the theory of our circulation which I present for the acceptance of unbiassed science. That 'tis the truth I firmly believe; but I disclaim the authorship lest as a truth; 'twould suffer by an unpretending name. . . . Who, then, is the author of this Theory? The Deus ex machinâ! He drove this thorax as its charioteer! I but observed its theorizing motion *while I rode with him.*"

If this be not nonsense then it is something worse. But in his anxiety to be "a moon, or antipodal light," Mr. MacLise has omitted to examine the labours of physiologists subsequent to Harvey, or he could not have failed to find that the nature and value of the ingestive action of the thorax has been observed and proved experimentally by Barry, upon the horse; measured and estimated by Poiseuille, with the aid of his ingenious hæmadynamometer; and lately further illustrated by Bernard. So that there is no shadow of originality about any part of the theory, except its exaggerated application. And in his own interest we are compelled to refrain from assigning to Mr. MacLise the lunar dignity to which he aspires.

It is the more to be regretted that this fasciculus should be disfigured by this prolusion, because the subsequent remarks upon the surgery and anatomy of the injuries delineated in the plates, are as sound and sensible as the drawings are themselves valuable and practically useful.

## THE LONDON HOSPITAL SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At a meeting of the students of the London Hospital, held on Monday the 15th inst., it was resolved:

1st. That a committee be formed to answer the letter signed "Another London Hospital Man," which appeared in last week's LANCET.

2nd. That a memorial be presented to Mr. Adams, (who superintends the anatomical branch of study at this school,) expressing the entire satisfaction of the students at the manner in which matters connected with practical anatomy have been conducted during this session.

The memorial, signed by the students generally, has been presented.

In answering the letter, the committee have only to refute statements made therein.

The lectures on anatomy have always been given with demonstrations from the human body, except on one or two occasions, which were from actual want of subjects. The absence of the demonstrators during the past week your correspondent has himself sufficiently accounted for. Their duties were performed by a gentleman (approved of by the lecturer on anatomy and the demonstrators), to the entire satisfaction of those students who dissected during that period. As to the irregularity of attendance complained of by your correspondent, the committee think that it must be more applicable to himself than to the demonstrators, whose attendance has been as regular as could be expected. And lastly, the facilities afforded at this school for becoming "honourable" members of the College of Surgeons are well known to be second to no other.

We are, Sir, yours respectfully,

S. THOMPSON,  
O. CODRINGTON, } Committee.  
S. N. RAY,

London Hospital, March, 1858.

\* \* Mr. M. Mackenzie (London Hospital) has addressed a letter to us to the same effect as the above.

HER MAJESTY'S LEVEE.—The following members of the medical profession were present at the Levée on the 17th inst.:—Drs. Andrew Smith, W. Loney, M'Cann, and Hinxman; Mr. Caesar Hawkins.