

Moure.—*Diseases of the Naso-Pharynx and Pharynx.* (XXth Century Practice.) (New York : W. Wood & Co.)

INASMUCH as the author has for the most part avoided controversial matter, it is needless to detail any special portion of this work. It is essentially a text-book, dealing in a concise and very lucid manner with all that is essential for the practical purposes of the general physician and surgeon. Though the questions of etiology and pathology are by no means overlooked, the book will prove most valuable where it deals with symptoms and diagnosis. The sections devoted to treatment are unhampered by the introduction of a multiplicity of alternative proceedings, but describe very clearly the methods recommended by the author's personal experience. For this reason the work should prove the more acceptable to the general surgeon as a practical guide, and a valuable addition to the series of which it forms part.

Waggett.

Barr.—*Manual of Diseases of the Ear, including those of the Nose and Throat in Relation to the Ear, for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine.* By THOMAS BARR, M.D., Lecturer on Diseases of the Ear, Glasgow University; Senior Surgeon to Glasgow Hospital for Diseases of the Ear; Dispensary Surgeon for Diseases of the Ear, Glasgow Western Infirmary; Aurist to Glasgow Hospital for Sick Children. Second Edition. Entirely revised and extensively re-written. With Two Hundred and Twenty-nine Illustrations. (Glasgow : Maclehose and Sons. 1896.)

IT is said that one cannot build a house properly until one does it for the second time. Whether Dr. Barr's first edition of his book was incomplete or not, there is no doubt that the edition now before us is a work of first-rate merit. He has obviously expended much of the time since the publication of the former in keeping his teaching thoroughly on the level with the advance of otology, and it would be difficult to find so good a presentation of the subject in any work of the same or even of any size.

The work commences with a description of the methods of examining the ear, physical and functional, followed by a consideration of the various symptoms as such, and of the causes and of the methods of treatment of disease of the ear. The following two-thirds of the book contain the special accounts of the different diseases, beginning with those of the nose and throat related to the ear, then of the diseases of the auricle and external meatus, the tympanic membrane, the middle ear and the internal ear, followed by a chapter on deaf-mutism, an appendix on otalgia and the venous and vascular supply of the ear, a formulary of remedies, general index, index of authors, and a judiciously selected bibliography. The anatomical and physiological sections are wisely incorporated in the chapters devoted to the diseases of the region concerned, instead of taking the form of a lengthy and somewhat repellant set of preliminary chapters as in some other text-books.

Dr. Barr's instructions for examining the organ of hearing are extremely full, and, perhaps, as interesting as such a dry subject can be made. In the less practical (though, in our opinion, valuable) tests by means of Galton's whistle and tuning-forks of different pitch (p. 29), the account seems singularly meagre. Why to the tuning-forks C, C¹, C², C³, and C⁴, there should be added D⁴, simply one tone higher than the previous one,

is not very clear. Weber's and Rinne's tests are clearly given, but the paragraph on the "Disturbing Influences in Weber's and Rinne's Tests" is, in places, unconvincing. We quite agree (p. 41) that "predominance of the bone-conduction does not necessarily exclude mischief in the nerve structures," but we fail to understand how in a given case "predominance of the air-conduction does not therefore exclude disease of the conducting structures, but may simply mean that there exists in the nerve structures a condition which more than counterbalances the mischief in the conducting structures." It seems very obvious that a derangement of the nerve cannot alter the relation between air- and bone-conduction, although it lowers both together. Again, predominance of air-conduction certainly *does* exclude any considerable degree of disease of the conducting structures. It cannot be too clearly understood that Rinne's test reveals any disturbance of the relation between air- and bone-conduction produced by disease of the conducting apparatus, and nothing more. No mention is made of the absolute unreliability of Rinne's test, when negative, in purely unilateral deafness of any high degree. The manipulations and operations are admirably detailed, and we may mention the unusually good description of the use of the attic syringe (p. 69), to which might well have been added an account of Dr. Milligan's instrument; also the operation of incision of the tympanic membrane (dubbed, for some inexplicable reason, "myringodectomy") (p. 74), for which the indications, as in the case of all the other operations, are most clearly and practically laid down. The use of electricity is described with a degree of caution indicating very limited conviction as to its value, the methods of graduating and measuring the dosage in milliampères and time being left, perhaps intentionally, for the reader to study in works on medical electricity. The use of the burr in mastoid operations is most judiciously advocated (p. 94), without undue disparagement of the chisel and mallet. No mention is made of Stacke's "protector" for the facial nerve, an instrument which many operators find of considerable value. The figures illustrating the anatomy of the parts are very good, but might advisably be supplemented by one showing in transverse vertical section the relations of the outer wall of the "attic." As a rule, Dr. Barr has come to practise early resort to irrigation and moist dressings in the after-treatment of mastoid operations for chronic disease. His recommendation of the instillation of alcoholic solution of carbolic or boracic acid after syringing is a valuable one, as is also the application of chromic acid to exuberant granulations. Ossiculectomy is described as practised by Sexton (p. 101). He very properly deprecates "anything like its general adoption" in non-purulent cases (p. 103). No mention is made of Delstanche's simple and ingenious extractor for the malleus.

A good account is given of the diseases of the nose and throat in connection with affections of the ear. He deprecates the removal of septal spurs or ridges on account of middle-ear disease in the absence of nasal symptoms, such as marked nasal obstruction seriously embarrassing breathing through the nose, persistent rhinitis, or severe paroxysmal sneezing unaffected by other forms of treatment—a very reasonable and

judicious principle of action. Bendelack Hewetson's "glove-stretcher" and Carmalt Jones's effective instrument for turbinectomy are described without comment (p. 137).

In regard to the removal of adenoids, Semon's reasons against delay in operating—the injurious influence on general health, mental development, and the formation of the face, the danger of ear complications, and the greater liability to, and seriousness of, infectious diseases, especially diphtheria and scarlet fever—are quoted with approval.

Dr. Barr expresses his preference for chloroform as an anæsthetic, having used both ether and nitrous oxide (p. 139). His reasons are not very convincing, as he seems fully to recognize the dangers attaching to the anæsthetic, and quotes Dr. Silk's disapproval of giving chloroform, or any other anæsthetic, after anæsthesia has been induced and the operation begun. The advantages of chloroform are the general familiarity with its administration on the part of practitioners who may be unable to administer nitrous oxide, its greater acceptability to little children, and the prolonged anæsthesia desirable in case of inexperienced operators. For specialists habituated to manipulate and operate with reflected light on patients in the sitting posture, nitrous oxide, administered by a skilled person, is ideal as regards safety and sufficient in almost every case. All the various instruments are described, including Golding-Bird's curette, with the comment that it "seems to be a serviceable instrument" (p. 145). The reviewer has found it an invaluable one. The writer's preference is for Gottstein's curette, supplementing it with the forceps for large, tough portions, and the curette and finger-nail for the softer variety and those growing from the lateral walls of the pharynx (p. 139).

We then come to the accounts of the special diseases. Those of the external meatus are described with great accuracy, but the absence of a description of *keratosis obturans*, as such, is rather surprising where otherwise such completeness prevails. The reference to the diagnosis of ceruminous accumulations from "collections of dried purulent masses, "coloured with blood or cerumen, or masses of fungi or cholesterine," may be taken to indicate the condition; but with us in London it forces itself upon our attention by the pain produced when what Dr. Barr describes as "the preliminary treatment of these conditions, namely, "syndring the ear with hot water," has been carried out. The swelling up of the epithelial masses under the action of water, with consequent violent pain, is one of the most conspicuous characteristics, the relief afforded by the dehydrating action of drops of glycerine and alcohol being almost equally conspicuous. The accounts of the inflammatory affections of the external meatus require no addition. Dr. Barr's views with regard to operations for removal of exostoses would indicate, we think correctly, that the occasion for them is extremely rare, and that in by far the majority of cases the patient's interests are best served by skilful cleansing, gentle dilatation, and the employment of astringents and other remedies.

Primary acute and chronic inflammations of the membrana tympani are considered so rare as not to deserve separate notice. This is, perhaps, carrying rather too far a view which will receive extensive support.

Cases certainly occur from time to time presenting marked objective and subjective signs of inflammation of the membrane in which the rest of the meatus is practically normal, and the hearing power is in proportion so good that any considerable disease of the middle ear is eliminated. Politzer has illustrated and described many of these.

In dealing with diseases of the middle ear, Dr. Barr takes the somewhat unusual course of describing the purulent forms of inflammation before the simple catarrhal ones. No doubt he is led to do this from a just appreciation of the degrees of importance attaching to the knowledge of this form of inflammation, whether acute or chronic, and its results. The various points on which the practitioner desires specific information are well brought out. The tendency of the antrum to escape, and of the cortical cells to be affected, in acute inflammation extending to the mastoid process, is very well emphasized on page 270 and elsewhere. The chronic processes receive full justice in an excellent chapter, and the morbid anatomy is illustrated by some excellent engravings. In describing the situation of caries and necrosis, the floor of the tympanum, which is exactly over the bulb of the jugular vein, might have been mentioned, although reference is made to it in the description of thrombosis of the jugular. The mode of formation of cholesteatomatous masses (p. 276) may be the true one, but it is not quite in accordance with the most recent teaching on the subject. The treatment, however, is very well described.

The nerve supply of the walls of the soft palate is at present under discussion, but the description of the occurrence of paralysis of the palate as the result of disease of the facial nerve is probably inserted in deference to tradition, on which a good deal of doubt has recently been cast. The publication of descriptions of cases illustrating the points described would be received with the greatest interest.

The history of septic thrombosis of the sigmoid sinus is particularly well written, and that of the operative treatment is most interesting. The methods adopted by Macewan, of Glasgow, and by the other many well-known operators, are judiciously described and compared. There is no reference to pyæmia resulting from suppurative disease of the ear without sinus phlebitis; and in view of the instructive facts published by Koerner (who, by-the-by, is one of the very few important names omitted in the bibliography) and by Hessler, this is a subject with which Dr. Barr would be well advised to deal in the next edition of his work.

The non-purulent affections of the middle ear are treated in thirty-three pages, which seems a very small amount of space for the matter; but it is to be remembered that the minute instructions given for the application of the various modes of treatment in an earlier chapter will go a long way to explain this.

The classification of the inflammatory processes in the middle ear into mutually excluding groups is probably an impossibility, and authors vary in the mode of their attempts to effect it. Dr. Barr, after the purulent inflammation, puts the exudative and the non-exudative or interstitial inflammation of the middle ear, looking on the exudative

apparently as an acute affection, and the non-exudative as a chronic one. At the same time he divides the non-exudative into two sub-classes: the catarrhal (known to some as the chronic exudative) and the sclerotic (known, and too well known, to all as such). In view of the fact that this last form develops in typical cases without any antecedent catarrh, we would advocate relegating its discussion to a chapter by itself, as it is only by this means that the learner can be impressed with its essentially specific nature, and thereby deterred from pushing in ignorance a useless and discreditable form of local treatment. At the same time Dr. Barr's directions (pp. 343, 344), if carefully studied and faithfully followed, should prevent any serious lapse in this direction.

The diseases of the labyrinth and auditory nerves seem to be dismissed with comparative brevity. Truth to tell, however, Dr. Barr has apparently arrived at this by eliminating the large hypothetical elements and detailing the somewhat limited practical ones. In doing so he has omitted very little of value.

Dr. Barr has given us a sound, practical work, which is destined at once to take a leading position, which it will maintain. We doubt not that there will be an early call for another edition, which, with such few alterations or additions as have been above suggested, will be very difficult to equal.

Dundas Grant.

LITERARY NOTE.

THE REBMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY announce, as in the press and to be issued forthwith, a new work on Heart Disease, entitled "Cardiac Failure and its Treatment, with especial reference to the use of Baths and Exercises," by Dr. Alexander Morison, Physician to the Great Northern Central Hospital, London.

The book will include an appendix by Medizinalrath Dr. Groedel of Bad-Nauheim.