

poison. As no remedy can compare with quinia for the accomplishment of this result, its use in the present state of our knowledge appears to be imperatively demanded in the treatment of pneumonia arising in malarious regions, and presenting well-marked and recurrent paroxysms." J. H. H.

ANT. XXX.—*A Treatise on the Diseases of the Nervous System.* By WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D., Prof. of Diseases of Mind and Nervous System in Univ. of City of New York, etc. etc. Sixth edition, Rewritten, Enlarged, and Improved. 8vo. pp. 883. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1876.

THE force of almost any criticism upon a work which has reached its sixth edition seems broken in advance, and if we accept the truly American standard of pecuniary success, the merits of the work before us are not doubted, because its sale has been large. Perhaps, however, there may be some who will look further for evidence.

In the review in this Journal (January, 1872) of the first edition, the "hasty and confident" style of the author is spoken of, and various instances adduced to justify this criticism. Most of these remain in the present edition, although the author says that he "has not failed to take into consideration the suggestions of his critics."

In the introduction, the author describes the instruments and apparatus employed in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous system, first of which is the ophthalmoscope, about a page being given to the explanation of its use. He says "the real value of ophthalmoscopy in diseases of the nervous system is in danger of being disregarded through the sciolism of pretenders, who read papers and write memoirs without ever having seen the optic disk to recognize it." This may be true, though it does not appear at whom the thrust is aimed; but there are certainly those who fail to discover the close relationship, which the author assumes, between the brain and the optic disk, who are neither sciolists nor pretenders.

Various other instruments are mentioned; among them, Dr. Lombard's delicate thermo-electric differential calorimeter. Is the scientific value of results obtained therewith proportional to their apparent delicacy? The thermometer is almost ignored. Is it because it is really less valuable than the more complicated apparatus, or because it illustrates less strikingly the rapid march of "modern science"?

A careful review of the body of this work would be a difficult task, for on every page we find, among solid and valuable statements, sometimes original, but largely borrowed from Charcot and his pupils, Duchenne, Lockhart Clarke, Hughlings Jackson, and many others, all sorts of hasty and inaccurate assumptions and some omissions, evidently depending only upon the hurry in which the book was prepared. Thus under alcoholism, the author says, p. 866, "digitalis is the most active agent we possess as an eliminant of alcohol through the kidneys." Now digitalis is only sometimes a diuretic; no one has shown that it acts specially on the excretion of alcohol, and, what is more to the purpose, there is no reason to suppose that the elimination of alcohol from any of the excretions has anything to do with the removal of its effects. It is burnt up in the body, and the most abundant proof of this fact is easily accessible. On page 872, he directly contradicts what he is repeatedly saying, speaking of the "influence which the bromides exert in augmenting the quantity of blood in the brain."

In the next edition we trust the author will tell us whether he has known scintillation produced by pressure from the enlarged prostate (p. 832), and, if so, how large the gland may have been, and what was the shape of the pelvis?

In quotation the author is usually but not always careful. But we notice for Deneffe "Senefle;" and certain statements in regard to bromide of potassium are credited to Dr. Clarke (p. 873), which really belong to Dr. Amory.

Among the points in which change has taken place from the first edition we observe: "Neuralgia" becomes "neural hyperæsthesia"—a title which has no advantage except that of length, and the disadvantage of being incorrect—since a nerve may transmit or originate much pain (neuralgia), while at the same time its capacity for normal sensations is greatly diminished (anæsthesia). Writers' spasm becomes "anæsthetic paralysis." The classification of the inflammations of the spinal cord has been changed and made to include a large number of separate affections. Convulsion and ecstasy appear with hystericepsepsy—the account of which is mostly borrowed from Charcot—under the common head of hysteroid affections. Neuritis (acute and chronic) and tumours of nerves are separately treated of; and a new section has been added on toxic diseases—plumbism, alcoholism, bromism, hydrærgism & arsenicism.

The most remarkable addition, however, is that made to the pathological anatomy of hydrophobia, which was, indeed, prophesied in the first edition.

Dr. Hammond claims to have discovered in the cerebral convolutions, in the pons, medulla oblongata, and roots of the pneumogastric, a condition of granular degeneration, with formation of fat granules, amyloid corpuscles, and nuclear proliferation of the white matter in the anterior and posterior columns of the spinal cord. The accompanying figures illustrating the text we presume to be those published in the *New York Tribune* of July 1st and 7th, 1874.

When a person puts forward a claim to an important histological discovery, or even the confirmation of appearances observed but once or twice before, it is certainly no more than prudent for those who have been unable to see the original demonstration to look for some evidence that the observer is familiar with his subject. Whether other persons have seen in these sections what Dr. H. claims, we do not know; but neither his descriptions of the methods of preparation, his sketches of the abnormal tissues, nor the other products of his pencil inspire us with confidence in the accuracy of his observations.

His methods were not those usually employed by histologists for the nervous centres, the descriptions are meagre and by no means clear; no drawing which is given would enable one to locate the lesions anywhere, and their general appearance betokens either coarse preparation or coarse drawing. Nothing is said of the way in which the sections were made transparent, and if they were not made transparent at all, it is very difficult to understand how they could have been "sufficiently thin." Fig. 91, for instance, which purports to be from the nuclei of the hypoglossal and pneumogastric nerves, gives not the slightest indication of its locality, and looks very little like anything we have seen there in a good many observations of this region.

As to the nuclear proliferation of neuroglia cells, figured on p. 658, there is not the slightest reason to suppose that they came from the white substance of the cord, and a great many to suppose the contrary. In order to have appeared of the size represented, they must have been viewed with a power many times higher than that employed upon the other cells, a fact not hinted at in the explanation (compare fig. 91), and could not have been seen without making the section very thin and very transparent, a process which would probably have removed the fat said to have been found. The "remarkable deficiency of all cell structure," naively noted by Dr. H., is very interesting. We remember to

have frequently met with this phenomenon in the examination of nervous structures during our early days of microscopy. Perhaps the absence of cells in the normal position will account for the extraordinary structures found in the white substance.

The author states that "many illustrations, which can scarcely fail to elucidate the text, have been added, so that the number now exceeds a hundred. Most of them are original; others are taken from the monographs of Duchenne, Charcot, Friederich, Loekhart Clarke, and other French, German, and British authors." Of the illustrations added, 17 are from Charcot and 8 from his pupils, being, of course, among the best in the book. The text, it may be added, is under almost equally great obligations to Charcot and his school. The style, as might be supposed from the mental characteristics of the author, is direct, clear, and positive.

In conclusion, it may be said that the present edition is enlarged, but not essentially improved; or, at least, not improved relatively to the time at which it was written. The faults of the first, we regret to find, are just as glaring in the sixth. The same hurry and incompleteness, the same want of mental digestion, the same hasty assumption of unproved theories, and generalizations from insufficient data, mark the present as the past.

If, however, one wishes a comprehensive *resumé* of the present state of neurological theories and practice, and if himself sufficiently familiar with the subject, or with the work of others to keep him constantly upon his guard, the book will be a useful addition to his library.

R. T. E.

ART. XXXI.—*On certain Endemic Skin and Other Diseases of India and hot Climates generally.* By THOMAS FOX, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to the Department for Skin Diseases in University College Hospital, Author of various works on Skin Diseases, etc. etc., and T. FARQUHAR, M.D., Surgeon-Major H. M.'s Bengal Medical Service (retired), etc. etc. *Including Notes on Pellagra, Clou de Biskra, Cancrota, and Aleppo Evil* (with five plates). By H. VANDYKE CARTER, M.D. Lond., Surgeon-Major H. M.'s Indian Medical Service, etc. (Published under the Sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council.) 8vo. pp. 288. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1876.

THE greater portion of the work before us is of the character of a report, the origin of which may be briefly explained. Some four years ago, Drs. Fox and Farquhar, with a view to obtaining more definite information concerning the cutaneous diseases of India, prepared a chart, the title of which—"A scheme for obtaining a better Knowledge of the Endemic Skin Diseases of India"—fully sets forth its object. The scheme was carefully drawn up, and embodied the existing state of European knowledge concerning the diseases considered, in the form of a concise description of the clinical features of each disease. It moreover indicated doubtful points, and the questions to be determined in regard to them, and, in conclusion, asked for replies to a series of questions. Attention was directed to the following diseases: morphea; scleroderma; frambæsia; Delhi sore; keloid; fibroma; anihum; elephantiasis Arabum; the fungus foot of India; elephootiasis Græcorum; leucoderma; tinea versicolor; Burmese ringworm; Malabar itch; and lichen tropicus. A large number of copies of the scheme were circulated by the government throughout India, China, Japan, Egypt, Algeria, Norway, Sweden, Canada, the West Indies,