

which has resulted from the investigations of our own philosophers, many of which had been undeservedly neglected, and allowed to remain unnoticed in those publications in which they first made their appearance. To these the author has added many valuable facts, derived from his personal observation ; so that the work may be regarded as, on the whole, the most complete treatise on Physiology we possess in our language.

When we compare the treatises on Physiology published within the last thirty years, with the standard works of the last century—the works for instance of Boerhaave and Haller—it would appear that this science, like Chemistry, had commenced almost a new existence within that comparatively brief period. Its modern history commences, it is true, rather farther back than the period referred to. Perhaps John Hunter deserves, more than any one, the credit of having given a new impulse to this science in the true direction. Since his time, though with very variable progress, Physiology has gradually been assuming its just rank as a science. The labors of Bichat in this field have reared an imperishable monument to his fame ; and his successors, emulating his zeal, have explored in every direction this vast and mysterious region of inquiry. The contrast between the text books of the science which are now in use, and those which were put into the student's hands twenty years ago, is truly astonishing. We are not obliged to look far back to remember the hopeless dullness in which we pored over the pages of Haller, translating his endless sentences and more endless paragraphs into the vernacular, with no one circumstance to relieve the toil of study, at a time when Bichat and Richerand were viewed almost in the light of dangerous innovators, and as having intruded on ground already in possession of its rightful owners. At present, thanks to the exertions of modern days, Physiology has become a delightful and attractive science, blending amusement with instruction, and inciting the man of taste by all the charms of eloquence, while it allures the philosopher by its appeals to his reason and his love of truth. To collect and digest into a system the known facts on so extensive a subject, has now become a serious labor ; but it is one which, well executed, does honor to its author, and entitles him to the respect and gratitude of his cotemporaries.

An Essay on the Ganglionic System of Nerves in the Cavity of the Cranium, and its Use. By WILLIAM INGALLS, M.D. Boston. 1832. pp. 16.

It is to be regretted that so many of those who arrive at distinction and wealth by the practice of medicine, become in advanced life indifferent to the progress of that science, to the successful cultivation of which they owe their advancement. They are too apt either to become absorbed in a routine of practice, which leaves them no time for literary exertion, or retiring on the wealth they have acquired, to become interested in

other objects, and withdraw their attention wholly from those which so strongly fixed them at an earlier period. Only a few are to be found who, after they have purchased by their labors a first immunity from toil, continue, for their love of science, exertions which cannot now be imputed to the desire of increased wealth or more extended practice, and who regard the claims which the younger members of the profession have on them for a portion of the fruits of their researches and the results of their experience. Sir Astley Cooper, by his recent labors in the department of Anatomy and Physiology, has honorably distinguished himself as one of those ardent and distinguished friends of science, and has thus made no small addition to the glory with which the brilliance of his early career had already encircled him. We are peculiarly gratified to find that the veterans of the profession among us are imitating this illustrious example. We are the more pleased with every instance of this nature, because we know that there exists among many an impression that the objects and views with which the profession is pursued here, are less elevated than those which actuate the practitioners of some other countries, and particularly of France ; that while in that country there exists a real devotion to science for its own sake, we are influenced by the sordid consideration of personal interest ; that we pursue it eagerly for the accumulation of wealth—and when this is satisfied, the interest of this pursuit ceases with the motive which first led to its adoption. We do not believe that there is any foundation for such a charge ; and if there be not, the sooner it is rebutted by the evidence of facts the better. With these views we rejoice to find that those who have become distinguished among us, are not backward to impart to others of their acquisition, or indifferent to the advance of that noble science to which they have devoted the ardor of their youth and the strength of their manhood.

Dr. Ingalls is well known to the public as an able and skilful surgeon, in which department of the profession he has long been eminent. His zeal in the pursuit of Anatomy and Physiology, has been less generally appreciated. The present work is an evidence that these departments have received no small share of his attention, and that he has cultivated them with success. It is so brief and comprehensive as to defy analysis, but at the same time to bring it within the reach of every practitioner.

Funeral Oration : Delivered before the Citizens of Boston assembled at the Old South Church, Nov. 17, at the Burial of GASPAR SPURZHEIM, M.D.
By CHARLES FOLLEN, J.U.D., Professor of German Literature in Harvard University. Boston. 1832.

On this Oration we have formerly spoken in general terms. It abounds in fine sentiments, and interesting personal anecdotes of Dr. Spurzheim.