

to be exact, and the evidences of considerable anatomical ability, are recognizable on every page. At the same time we must confess to considerable disappointment at finding two important subjects completely ignored. The first of these subjects is the history of the *development of the eye* and of its component parts, a subject which has received considerable attention upon the continent, and which is of the greatest moment in determining the homologies and significance of certain peculiar and characteristic parts of the organ. From these investigations the most curious developments have resulted. Thus, the crystalline lens, for example, is shown by embryology to be homologous with the epidermis, in fact to arise out of the epidermis, the lens fibres being transformed epidermic cells. In the development of the eyes the embryonic skin, at the two points corresponding to the seats of these organs, projects into the interior in a sac-like fold, filled with epidermal cells, very much as occurs in the development of the sebaceous glands and the hairs. These cells, by their transformation, produce the lens. At first the lens retains its connection with the exterior, but this connection (the neck of the sac-like fold) dwindles first into a mere membrane (the *membrana capsulo-pupillaris*), then this atrophies, and finally no recognizable trace of the origin of the lens remains. We owe our knowledge of these interesting changes, above all, to C. Vogt, a brief account of whose results will be found in the second lecture of Virchow's *Cellular Pathology*. Such histories as the above are not mere idle philosophical curiosities, nor are they of value only in determining the classification of a tissue with this or that group; they are essential to the right comprehension of the pathological processes of the part, and assume from this stand-point, if from no other, a value which it is imperative to recognize.

We much regret, therefore, that the embryology of the eye has been ignored in this treatise; and still more do we regret that the author's plan has not embraced at least brief allusions to the *pathological anatomy*, and especially to the *pathological histology*, of the organ. These subjects are of acknowledged importance, and accurate information with regard to them is more difficult of access, especially to the *student*, than is the case with any subject treated of in the work. Scattered in foreign and English journals, rich materials have been accumulating for the last ten years on these subjects, which it would have been in the highest degree useful to render accessible.

The only reference to the pathological changes of the eye, that we have noticed in the volume before us, is at page 254, and the account there given of "the opaque cataractous lens," though correct as far as it goes, only describes one variety of cataract, a statement which will be appreciated by all who remember the excellent article on atrophy of the lens in Carl Wedl's *Rudiments*. The passage to which I refer describes the lens fibres as appearing "as though broken up; they are irregular in outline, the serrations are much less distinct and uniform, the fibres are no longer clear and homogeneous, but are granular, and separated more or less from each other; the individual fibres are swelled and bulging in some parts, disconnected and broken in others, just as those of the healthy lens are after having been subjected to boiling water or coagulating reagents. These changes appear to be greater towards the circumference than near the centre of the lens."

This description is illustrated by a drawing, Plate VI. Fig. 11 (incorrectly printed in the work as Fig. 14).

At the same time, however, that we regret the omission of these two important subjects, we cannot withhold our meed of praise for the work so far as it goes, and we cordially recommend it as a safe and pleasant guide to the student and young practitioner.

J. J. W.

---

ART. XXV.—*The Pathology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases, comprising the most recent Doctrines on the subject.* By JOHN HARRISON, F. R. C. S. London: 1860. Octavo, pp. 176.

This volume contains, in a small compass, a very correct account of the pathology and treatment of venereal diseases. It is well arranged, and clearly

and succinctly written. It is just such a treatise upon the disease as was wanted. Ricord's Hunter and Acton are too unwieldy, they contain too much for the majority of medical practitioners, and all other special works are too imperfect or faulty. As to the accounts given of venereal affections in our systems of surgery, or complete treatises, they are remarkably full of errors.

On two points alone can the doctrines contained in this book be said to differ from those approved by the highest authorities on venereal diseases; and these are in respect to the possibility of preventing the infection of the whole system by destruction of the chancre, before it has existed a certain time, and in respect to chancre, always arising from chancre. Mr. Harrison says, it has been found by experience, that in the case of true syphilitic chancre, canterization cannot be depended upon for the purpose of destroying the syphilitic virus before it can be absorbed into the system, and thereby preventing constitutional infection. Men of vast experience, who canterize properly, are positive as to the fact, an infinitely more agreeable one to believe, of constitutional infection never taking place in those cases where a chancre is properly destroyed within a certain time after exposure to contagion.

In regard to the origin of chancre, Mr. Harrison says:—

"The question has been frequently agitated, whether the poison of syphilis can be generated anew at any time under favouring conditions? In reference to this, I would observe that, from cases which have come under my observation, I am convinced that there is always danger of contracting sores,—simple chancres at least—incurred by those who indulge in promiscuous sexual intercourse, and that even under circumstances when it might be supposed almost impossible that any disease could exist. The conditions which tend to favour the generation of the poison, I cannot but think, consist mainly in the admixture of the secretions of the male and female, altered partly by the irritated condition of the organs whence they are derived, and partly by decomposition." (p. 55.)

The best authorities in the matter are very decidedly against this opinion. Opinions differ here, however, just as they do upon the subject of the spontaneous generation of animals and vegetables. From the time of Aristotle and perhaps long before him, down to the present moment when the French Academy of Sciences is engaged in debating this vexed question, the truth of the maxim *generatio unius est corruptio alterius*, has been a grand subject of dispute. For our part we do not believe that the generation of a chancre comes from corruption, any more than the generation of an animal; we hold that every chancre comes from a chancre, as well as that every living thing comes from a preceding living thing.

A peculiarity in the spelling of *rupin* has been adopted by Mr. Harrison; it is always written by him *rhupia*. The spelling *rupia* has been sanctioned by custom just as much as that of *rose*, which also, if orthography must always be determined by the derivation, should be spelled *rhose*. This trifle is the only thing at all exceptionable which we have discovered in the whole book, after a most attentive perusal, so far as respects the manner in which it is written.

W. F. A.

AST. XXVI.—*Description des Eaux Minérales Thermales et des Etuves de l'Île d'Ischia, etc.* Par J. E. CHEVALLEY DE RIVAZ, Docteur en Médecine des Facultés de Paris et de Naples, etc. etc. etc. Sixième édition, Revue, Corrigée et Augmentée, 8vo. pp. 214, Naples, 1859.

*Description of the Thermal Mineral Springs and Natural Vapour Baths of the Island of Ischia, etc. etc. etc.* By J. E. CHEVALLEY DE RIVAZ, M. D., of Paris and Naples. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged.

THERE is, perhaps, no place so rich in thermal and mineral springs as the island of Ischia, the Pythéassa of the Greeks. Entirely of volcanic origin, the subterranean fires to which it owed its birth being still unextinguished, though of diminished extent and fierceness, it is not at all surprising that the water of