

pertains to the relations of hereditary diseases—a subject, the complete investigation of which is calculated, we suspect, to throw light on more than one important etiological question.

The “Advancement of Knowledge of Diseases of Females during the last quarter of a Century,” is the subject of a communication from Dr. G. M. B. MAUGHS. It contains nothing new, and as the entire paper is comprised in seventeen octavo, wide-margined pages, printed in large type, it must be evident that the writer has not been able to say much in relation to the tolerably long list of subjects, many of vast importance, in respect to almost everything relating to many of which there exists much difference of opinion among our most distinguished practitioners, and which it would seem he was necessarily called upon to pass in review in the proper accomplishment of the task he had assigned himself.

Of the description of an “Improved Hodgen Splint for treating Simple and Compound Fractures of the Femur,” by Dr. E. A. CLARK, together with the two succeeding ones, “Fractures of the Olecranon,” and “A Suspension Splint for treating Simple and Compound Fractures of the Leg,” both by the same author, we can only give the titles. A verbal description, unaccompanied with the illustrative wood-cuts would scarcely convey any clear idea of the construction of the several apparatus, or of its adaptedness to effect the object for which it was designed.

Dr. JOHN GREEN recommends the “Treatment of Lachrymal Obstructions by Dilatation of the Natural Passages” by means of Leadén Styles. Dr. G. prefers lead as the material for the dilating styles in cases of lachrymal obstruction to silver, the material usually employed, because he conceives that a leadén style of the same or even larger size can be passed with greater ease, as it adapts itself readily to the curvature of the passage, while it causes comparatively little pain by its continued presence, and hence the smaller size can be more rapidly changed for larger. The difficulty of manipulating the very flexible lead wire, especially the smaller sizes, is overcome, he says, by making the styles tubular, and inserting a stylet of tempered steel wire, which is to be withdrawn as soon as the style is placed in position, when the projecting top of the latter is bent over so as not to interfere with the movements of the eyelids.

On “The Use and Abuse of the Obstetric Forceps,” by Dr. G. M. B. MAUGHS, is a paper marked throughout by good sense, correct principles, and, in general, highly judicious rules of practice.

On “Artificial Pupil,” by Dr. M. DICKINSON. This is a paper replete with interest. The author endeavours to show, by the adduction of cases, that, under even highly discouraging circumstances, whenever, throughout any portion of its circumference, the cornea presents a slight extent of transparency, a resort to the operation is always productive of good, often resulting in a complete restoration of sight.

The last paper in the volume before us, by Dr. J. GREEN, is entitled “An Optical Demonstration of the Characteristic Phenomena of Astigmatic Vision,” or that visual defect which is dependent on a difference in the refractive power of the eye in different meridians. A very curious subject. Of Dr. G.’s demonstrations no clear account would be given unaccompanied by the pictorial illustrations with which it is accompanied.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXIV.—*A Practical Treatise on the Diagnosis, Pathology, and Treatment of Diseases of the Heart.* By AUSTIN FLINT, M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, and of Clinical Medicine in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc. etc. 2d edition. Thoroughly revised and enlarged. 8vo. pp. xiii., 550. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1870.

DR. FLINT’S contributions to the study of diseases of the chest are of a character to place him in the foremost rank among his own countrymen as an

investigator in all that pertains to the pathology, diagnosis, and treatment of this class of affections; in fact, we know of no one who has recently written in English whose views on these points are more original, or who has done more for the elucidation of this portion of our science. The first edition of the book before us was favourably noticed in the July number of this Journal for 1860, and by the medical press generally. The accomplished writer of the review in this Journal has done his work with such thoroughness and impartiality, that it is only necessary at this time to confirm the favourable opinion which he there expressed of the merits of the work, and to indicate some of the changes and additions which have been made in this edition. The ten years which have passed since the publication of the first edition, have afforded to Dr. Flint many opportunities for observing cases of diseases of the heart, and it is upon an analysis of these (four hundred and fifty in number) that he has relied in making his revision. In consequence of the enlarged experience, gained from the observation and careful noting of so many cases, he has modified and corrected some of the statements in the first edition. As an instance of this we may mention that he no longer teaches that purely functional disease of the heart never leads to hypertrophy of that organ, as he has seen this condition occur in a case of exophthalmic goitre, in which no other exciting cause could be assigned for it than the long-continued violent action of the heart.

In the new matter we notice a reference to the sphygmograph, together with some typical tracings of the instrument in various forms of cardiac disease; but we regret not to find an expression of opinion as to the degree of aid we may expect from it in diagnosis, and especially in difficult cases in which the physical signs are obscure. Certainly the sphygmograph does not afford us the assistance which its inventor and advocates claimed that it would, and it is still a matter of doubt whether it will permanently maintain a place in our science. Some of the reported cases will be found to be of interest. Among these may be mentioned one reported at page 124, in which a scirrhus mass surrounded the heart and gave rise to the physical signs of pericarditis with effusion. In another case it was believed that rupture of the interventricular septum had been produced by a blow over the cardiac region. Four cases of thoracic aneurism, treated according to Bowditch's modification of Tufnell's plan, are also reported: in none of these did a cure result; but Dr. Flint does not regard his failure in these cases as a proof that this plan is of no use in any instance.

In conclusion, it only remains for us to commend this book to those who are anxious to acquire a thorough practical knowledge of the diseases of the heart. Dr. Flint has, by the careful revision to which he subjected it, brought it up fully to the requirements of the present day, and it may now confidently be placed in the hands of the medical student as one of the best and most practical treatises on the subject in the English language. J. H. H.

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ART. XXV.—*Manual of Chemical Examination of the Urine in Disease; with Brief Directions for the Examination of the most Common Varieties of Urinary Calculi.* By AUSTIN FLINT, JR., M. D., Professor of Physiology and Microscopy in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York; Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, etc. 12mo. pp. 75. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1870.

THIS small handbook of directions for the qualitative and quantitative examination of the urine was prepared as a companion to a set of test-apparatus furnished by an instrument-maker at Dr. Flint's suggestion, and is of little value in any other connection. As no reference is made to urinary deposits or microscopical investigation, its usefulness is still farther limited. It will, however, be found convenient by those, if any there are, who have not access to one of the numerous larger works upon the same subject. Under the head of