

point it is interesting to note the state on leaving hospital; and most careful calculations have been made to elucidate it. On the whole, the condition of these patients has been favourable to the expectation of life, for a considerable time; and although it would be impossible to calculate such expectation with accuracy, or from figures, to derive a conclusion capable of being applied to individual cases of phthisis, yet it is easy to see that the whole average duration of the disease must be raised beyond even the period assigned to it by the observers referred to."—pp. 68-70.

The early stages of phthisis are often much prolonged, and sometimes the symptoms disappear entirely. This is one of the peculiarities noted by our author, and he states with great justice that physicians have often fallen into disrepute by giving an unfavourable prognosis, even when a cavity exists. There is no doubt, according to our observation, that these cases sometimes offer nearly as good probabilities of life as those of healthy people, and it is all-important for physicians to remember that, although, they are called to patients with phthisis and cavities in the lung, yet these do not always mean death, especially not an early one. These patients, if there be not other signs of constitutional irritation, often live many years in tolerable health.

We are glad to find that Dr. Pollock asks attention to the connection of phthisis with fistula in ano. This was one of the favorite themes of the late Dr. Parrish, of this city, but strange to say, even at the present time, we see surgeons actually operating on these cases. That is, doing precisely what is calculated to destroy the patient by drying up a natural and useful discharge, prematurely.

The author's observations on the treatment of phthisis are, in general, judicious and correct. We only wish they contained more new facts. He sums them up in the following words:—

- "1. To promote healthy blood changes.
- "2. To maintain full respiratory action.
- "3. To eliminate morbid matters from the system.
- "4. To supply the largest amount of the most nutritive food which can be digested."

On the whole, we may state that the book gives us a fair account of the prognosis of phthisis, especially in one respect, that if there be not great fever and other marks of constitutional disturbance, we should not look for a speedy termination, but admit that the patient can sometimes recover, and that he very often may enjoy the usual comforts of life.

In one of the latter chapters of the work, the author speaks especially of the causes of fatal consumption. This is particularly true of those whose work confines them to close and hot apartments without exercise.

He speaks of the crowded rooms in which sewing girls work in London, and might have added New York, Philadelphia, and all other large cities. Numbers of these are literally killed, and we may add, that in the United States, many in much more favoured walks of life, are killed by the dry and heated air in which they habitually live.

The author is evidently a sound and reliable practitioner. His remarks on both prognosis and treatment are correct, but we cannot help asking either for a more full and perhaps more conclusive view, or else more positively new facts. Still, we like to hear all the old truisms relative to consumption, again and again repeated, and after a time we trust that we shall obtain a more satisfactory control over it.

W. W. G.

ART. XXVIII.—*Medical Diagnosis with Special Reference to Practical Medicine. A Guide to the Knowledge and Discrimination of Diseases.* By J. M. DA COSTA, M. D., Lecturer on Clinical Medicine and Physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital, &c. &c. Illustrated with engravings on wood. Second edition revised. 8vo. pp. 784. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1866.

IN our number for October, 1864, will be found a review of this work, and we are pleased to find that the favourable opinion there expressed of it has been

confirmed by the profession, as is shown by the call for a new edition within less than two years. The present edition has been revised and about ninety pages of new matter and twenty-two wood-cuts added. The chief additions are in the chapters on diseases of the brain, of the larynx, of the blood, on the urine, and on parasites, and in the section on abdominal enlargement.

We must compliment the publishers on the excellent style in which they have issued the work.

ART. XXIX.—*Notes on Health in Calcutta and British Emigrant Ships, including Ventilation, Diet, and Disease.* By W. H. PEARSE, M.D., Edin., Government Emigration Service. 12mo. pp. 160. London, 1866.

We scarcely know what to say in relation to these "Notes on Health" by Dr. Pearse, so as to convey to our readers a correct idea of the nature and amount of information to be derived from them, and at the same time to do no injustice to their author. It is very certain that many useful hints are thrown out in respect to ventilation, diet, and water in their hygienic agencies, on board especially of emigrant vessels sailing to and from warm latitudes. The notes so far are expressed in a tolerably intelligible language. But in those devoted to a consideration of the pathology and treatment of the diseases which occur on board of emigrant ships, Dr. Pearse has indulged in a style so strange and obscure that we have found it a very difficult task to make out his real meaning. Indeed we do not feel very certain that we have done so after all our efforts to that effect.

His account of an outbreak of an "epidemic sore throat" on shipboard is a most remarkable specimen of medical description.

He defines scarlatina as follows:—

"Such a phenomenon as scarlatina will be cognizant to the mind as a natural variation of man's state in earlier individual life, at this period of time and nature—that it is not a specific thing, but a continued and natural and necessary variation. That it cannot be a fixed specific 'disease,' because that man himself is a transitional type and existence of matter and life, so the contained variations must be the necessary order of his, at any time, then actual present age."

We will simply quote as a sufficient justification of our criticism of the style of Dr. P. his very dark and scarcely intelligible definition of cholera:—

"I should view the symptoms which we call cholera, as the sequelæ, the natural course, perhaps, towards natural self-restoration; the result, probably, of some momentary—it may be infinitesimal—change antecedently happened."

"Such a hypothetical view, of what we call cholera, may embrace many possible means of production. Cholera may be of the nature of a cycle of change natural, and inherent, and inevitable, in the very composition and nature and relations of the human body, and its whole surroundings and existences, and true parts; it may be, also, or not be infectious, or partake of both these characters, but may yet more than in the body itself, be the result potentially, of some one or more chief change in external physical influences, as of heat, light, magnetism, etc.

"A recognition of the exquisite balance of infinite actions, relations, and parts which matter exhibits, or, rather, which are of matter and matter of them, in its course and forms in man, and other living things, and whose rate rather than balance, is not a fixed, but as yet an unexpressed—fixed—progressive one, evolving not perfect life or rate, but a present formative series, e. g.; childhood with its accessions passage into the rate of the eruptive fevers; youth with its power and passions; manhood with its passage to tubercle, cancer, etc.; old age with its cessation of the vital power of matter, in its then existing combinations, etc., opens the view to the vast relations, in extent and time, of man and his deviations, but such are man's senses, mind, and place in the whole series, that he is, by the simple observation of any fact, made cognizant of the whole