

elementary work; neither do we yet know how to diagnosticate cases with sufficient accuracy to enable us conscientiously to recommend it.

Notwithstanding these few strictures we have felt obliged to make, we say again, as we said before, that Hartmann's work is, on the whole, most excellent and trustworthy.

The English edition reflects great credit on the publisher, paper, illustrations, and type being all equally praiseworthy. We are sorry to say that the translator might have done his work better. In not a few places the sense is not the same in the English as in the German work. Thus, on page 114 (English edition) the following sentence occurs: "Usually in cases of perforation [*i. e.*, of the *membrana tympani*, *Rev.*], with a knitting-needle, the consequent pain, tinnitus, dulness of hearing, and perhaps fainting occur only at intervals." The error here lies in the fact that in translating the words "*nur vorübergehend*," the writer has used as their English equivalent "only at intervals," whereas the sentence should run "only transient . . . occur." We have no doubt that if a second English edition should be required the translator will correct this and other similar mistakes (of which we regret to say there are not a few). We would also suggest that more attention should be paid to English composition. The following may be a literal translation, but it retains too much of the German idiom (not unmixed with a Scottish element) to be altogether acceptable to the taste of an English reader: "Therefore ought we always to open the antrum freely along with the neighboring cells" (p. 190).

HANDBUCH DER ALLGEMEINEN UND SPECIELLEN ARZNEIVERORDNUNGS-LEHRE. Auf Grundlage der neuesten Pharmacopœen. Bearbeitet von DR. C. A. EWALD. Elfte neue umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Berlin: Verlag von A. Hirschwald, 1887.

HANDBOOK OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL THERAPEUTICS. By DR. C. A. EWALD.

THE object of Professor Ewald in writing his now well-known work was for the purpose of providing his medical brethren with a book on formulary, rather than a text-book, on the use of drugs in disease. Every page teems with prescriptions, and the text, while showing a widespread knowledge of therapeutical literature, is cramped and dwarfed in the endeavor to introduce a multitude of formulæ.

The pharmacological literature of every civilized nation has been drawn upon, so that nearly every prescription has appended to it the name of its originator, while the consideration of the uses and actions of the drugs has been taken from the pharmacopœias of all nations possessing an official work on medicaments. The very fact that this book has reached an eleventh edition shows us, however, that empiricism is as rife in Germany as at home, and that a very large class of practitioners of medicine still treat their patients by the shotgun method rather than by stern reasoning and logic.

As a work on formulary Ewald's book certainly distances all com-

petitors, and although the labor involved in its construction must have been enormous, the author certainly cannot complain that his efforts have not been appreciated.

H. A. H.

HIP DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS TREATMENT BY EXCISION. By G. A. WRIGHT, B.A., M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.S. Eng., Assistant Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary; Lecturer in Clinical Surgery in the Owens College, etc. 8vo. pp. 239. With 48 original woodcuts. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1887.

In noticing this monograph, dealing with so many questions which, despite all experience and research, are still moot points, it will be impossible to do more than touch upon a few salient ones.

As the author has performed, between October 30, 1880, and July 8, 1886, one hundred excisions of the hip, we are warranted in concluding that he trusts but little to nature in morbus coxæ. A very fair *résumé* is given of the pathological views of all the more prominent writers who treat of hip disease, and the conclusion is arrived at "that all cases of true chronic hip disease are truly tuberculous." The chapter on "Symptoms" is full, but we can only note that swelling of the inguinal glands indicates osteitis of the pelvis rather than the femur; that "nearly every case of chronic disease of the hip," if examined "at a certain period of its course," will "be found to contain pus;" and that the disappearance of abscesses is sometimes to be accounted for by their discharge through the rectum, which "is commoner than is supposed." The belief is expressed "that chronic hip disease begins invariably, or nearly so, as an ostia," and that "cases of true hip disease rarely recover without entire destruction of the upper epiphysis of the femur, usually accompanied by abscess, and always result in shortening, with more or less deformity, and a very large majority die; very few reach adult life." . . . When the following sentences are read it will be seen exactly what the author's views as to treatment really are: "I agree that abscesses should be opened, but as there then remains what is practically a sequestrum as the source of the abscess, I think it should be removed—i. e., the upper end of the bone excised (except in cases of residual abscess. . . .);" in other words, he advises treatment by rest and extension, but if an abscess forms despite this, excise in all cases. Again, "treatment short of excision when once suppuration occurs, is useful only as a palliative, or a means of temporizing." In justice to the author we must say that although he has excised in about one case out of every six seen, he believes that such radical treatment will not be so often required in other than hospital patients. As to the method of operating, he prefers to saw off the bone in situ through the trochanter, and then disarticulate the fragment. The elastic bandage is thought useful in the after-treatment where there is much thickening of the soft parts, or the sinuses remain "flabby and sluggish." The mortality of Mr. Wright's excisions, he contends, amounts to only three per cent, explaining two other deaths by a preëxistent pyæmia. Amputa-