

ART. XXV.—*Illustrated Manual of Operative Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.*—By MM. C. BERNARD, D. M. P., and CH. HUETTE. Edited, with notes and additions, and adapted to the use of the American Medical Student, by W. H. VAN BUREN, M. D., Prof. of Anatomy, University Medical College, and Surgeon to New York Hospital, and C. E. ISAACS, M. D., Demonstrator of Anatomy, Univ. Med. Coll., and Consulting Surgeon to the Penitentiary Hospital, Blackwell's Island. Illustrated with steel engravings from drawings after nature, by M. J. LEVÉILLÉ. Designed to serve as a companion to the ordinary text-books of Surgery. New York: H. Baillière, 290 Broadway, 1855. 113 plates, and 513 pages.

THE first half of this well-known and popular manual has been already three years before the profession, and was duly recommended to the notice of our readers in 1852. We take great pleasure in announcing the long looked-for publication of the remaining parts, and in expressing our admiration of the whole work in its present complete and elegant form. It is unquestionably the handsomest compendium of Operative Surgery that has yet appeared; and, withal, so compactly as well as clearly and comprehensively arranged, that we are inclined to think that it may prove even more useful than it is ornamental. The American editors have good reason to congratulate themselves on having successfully supplied a want which has hitherto continued to be felt, in presenting the beautiful and accurate illustrations and methodical accompanying text of MM. Bernard and Huette, as "a complete and concise picture of the science and art of Operative Surgery, in its present advanced and perfected condition, in a portable form."

They do not place their translation in competition with the great work of Bourguery and Jacob, or with the American edition of Velpeau, or the quarto of Prof. Pancoast. We would decidedly prefer it to either of these (except the first, which is altogether out of general reach), as much more recent, and, for most-practical purposes, both more available and more reliable in the hands of the student or inexperienced practitioner. "Its compactness and portability will render it," as they justly say, "more desirable to the student as a companion in the lecture and dissecting-room, where its copious and graphic illustrations will assist him materially in acquiring correct general ideas as to the nature and objects of the individual operations of surgery; whilst for more minute and varied details with regard to their history and numerous modifications, the less accessible and more expensive treatises alluded to can be consulted at a more advanced period of study." "Our manual," they further intimate, "whilst it is intended mainly to illustrate the intricacies of operative surgery by appealing to the eye as well as to the understanding of the student, and by familiarizing him with that most useful department of anatomy which immediately relates to surgical operations, will also be found, it is hoped, not entirely useless as a work of reference to those already engaged in practice."—(P. 6 of Preface.)

The first twenty-five plates are preliminary, and present, in a large number of remarkably well-executed and colored figures, all the most approved instruments required in surgical operations. These instruments appear to have been selected with discriminating care, although in great abundance and variety. As a matter of course, they are mostly French, and after the patterns of Charrière.

Next in order come six other plates, also introductory in character, occupied with the usual minor or elementary operations; such as the positions of the bistoury, incisions, union of wounds, seton, venesection, arteriotomy, ligature of arteries, and other manipulations of this class.

These are followed by an admirable series of illustrations of the surgical anatomy and operative surgery, side by side, of the ligature of the different arteries. This important subject is here presented in ten plates and some thirty figures, which are not excelled in beauty, accuracy, and practical value by any in the book.

Amputations through the joints, in the continuity of limbs, exsections, and trepanning are severally and successively exhibited in the eighteen subsequent plates; ample demonstrations of the surgical anatomy accompanying, throughout, the delineations of the critical stages of each operative procedure. These are succeeded by attractive representations of a great variety of delicate operations on different organs and regions of the body, which we have not room to specify. Among them we may note especially those upon the eye, upon the ear and other portions of the head, and upon the throat, neck, chest, and abdomen.

Then we have the management of abdominal and intestinal wounds, the surgical and pathological anatomy and surgery of hernia and of artificial anus, and the operations upon the anus and rectum. Plates 60, 61, 62, and 64, on the anatomy of hernia, are in every point of view deserving of particular attention. Were it possible to select, from the great number of rich and appropriate engravings, three, or four, or half a dozen that might be regarded as embodying and portraying the distinctive excellences of the whole work, we would be disposed to point to these pictures of hernia. They are masterpieces of their kind, if not decidedly the best specimens of miniature illustration that MM. Bernard and Huette, or any others, have produced.

The remainder of the volume is taken up with operations on the male genito-urinary organs, including those for stricture and its consequences, and for urinary calculi; with operations on the female genital organs, and, lastly, with tenotomy.

The foregoing brief sketch and outline of its principal contents will afford a faint idea of the character and value of the book before us. The standing of the French original, as that of the most convenient and attractive elementary atlas extant of operative surgery, while it is inferior to none in the fidelity of its teaching, has been so long established that we are spared the necessity of dwelling on it here. It is justly regarded by a Parisian authority as "at once a work of science and a work of art." "Science," says this writer, "is exemplified in its perfect acquaintance with surgical anatomy, and above all in its methodical exposition and judicious choice of the innumerable procedures of operative medicine; whilst art shines in each plate with a characteristic grace and finish which in no way impair the exactness of its details."—(*Archives Générales*, 1855, p. 383.)

The engravings of the American edition are evidently duplicates of the original copies, and hence identical with them in artistic superiority. The letter press is, as already intimated, well arranged, clear, concise, and sufficiently full for the purpose intended. It appears to have been faithfully and elegantly translated; and, according to the promise of the editors, is agreeably free from idiomatic and un-American phrases and technicalities. It cannot fail, therefore, to be sought after by intelligent students as a cherished adjunct to the various text-books of the schools; and will be no less likely to afford, even to teachers and practitioners, an amount of aid and comfort that cannot be hoped for from any other work of similar character.

The additions of the editors, which are most unobtrusively appended, are judicious and appropriate. Although not very numerous or lengthy, some of them are important in connection with American practice; and all are interesting, and such as decidedly add to the value of the work without interfering with the previous context, or perceptibly increasing the size of the volume. The publishers have been equally successful in the paper and printing, and the general getting up; so that we may venture to presume that their transatlantic *compères* will have no reason to be ashamed of the American reprint. With the best wishes for the success of a publication which does the highest honour to the good taste, enterprise, and judgment of all concerned, we most cordially recommend it as on all accounts worthy of a prominent place in every medical library, or on every office table.

E. H.