

Recent Literature.

Cyclopædia of Diseases of Children. Vol. II, pp. 1,066. Edited by JOHN M. KEATING, M.D. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

This volume exceeds, if anything, Volume I in value and interest. Part I contains "The Diseases of the Skin," written by Hyde, Bulkley, Van Harlingen and others. The article on "Eczema" will, of course, be most frequently referred to, and Van Harlingen has treated the subject in a very satisfactory manner, although one is surprised at finding no mention of the external use of either boric or salicylic acid.

Part II. "Constitutional Diseases and Diseases of Nutrition," begins with a carefully written article on "Scrofulosis," by Henry Ashby. Excision of superficial enlarged glands is recommended in a lukewarm manner, but when pus has formed, he insists on at once opening the gland under an anæsthetic and scraping out the caseous material. The articles on "Tuberculosis," by A. Jacobi, and on "Syphilis," by Abner Post, are both valuable contributions to these subjects. "Rachitis" is treated of at length by Thos. Barlow and J. S. Bury, and the article is illustrated by interesting photographs. The writers are inclined to think that, although improper feeding tends to rickets, its influence has been overstated to the exclusion of other agents, of which they would lay especial stress on bad air and insufficient covering of the infant's limbs. "Scurvy," by Thos. Barlow, is particularly interesting, and contains a report of a series of cases. Dr. Barlow thinks that many of the cases described by German writers as "acute rickets" are, strictly speaking, a combination of scurvy and rickets. The editor was certainly very fortunate in obtaining the article on the "Urinary Diatheses," by J. Milner Fothergill, which was the last work of this distinguished writer. One is forcibly impressed with the prevalence and importance of lithiasis. The administration of lean meat and beef tea in these cases are, the writer says, so much poison to the child, while the resort to peptonized foods he clearly shows to be even worse. A diet largely farinaceous is advised, and no mention is made of the almost antidiabetic diet recommended by some recent writers, a diet the reverse of that used by Fothergill.

Part III. "Diseases of the Respiratory Tract," contains articles on diseases of the nose, pharynx and larynx, by Bosworth, Jarvis, Morell Mackenzie and others, the mere mention of whose name shows at once the valuable character of the articles. Over one hundred and fifty pages are devoted to "The Diseases of the Lungs." Dr. Francis Minot contributes a valuable paper on "Croupous Pneumonia," illustrated by clinical charts and by brief reports of cases. He dwells on its frequency in children, on the relations of the sanitary surroundings to the disease, on the fact that it is but rarely fatal, and on the need of but little medication. It is a great pleasure to find a brief article written for the purpose of bringing about the disappearance of the term "capillary bronchitis," which, as the writer, F. Gordon Morrill, says, "has become a troublesome and intangible ghost both in clinical teaching and in medical literature." The article, by the same writer, on "Broncho-Pneumonia" is also particularly valuable, and with Dr. Minot's article clears up the extreme haziness as to these two diseases in children, present in many practitioners' minds, as well as

in the text-books, which frequently treat of them under one heading. As illustrating the influence of unsanitary environment, Dr. Morrill gives most interesting figures and diagrams, and shows that in a portion of the slums of Boston there were in one year twenty-two deaths from pneumonia and thirty-nine from bronchitis, while in a larger portion of a better part of the city there were no deaths recorded under either of these heads. We look in vain for the differential diagnosis between prolonged broncho-pneumonia and phthisis. F. C. Shattuck contributes valuable papers on "Emphysema," "Asthma," and "Hay-Fever," and A. Jacobi one on "Phthisis." The article on "Pleurisy" is well written by E. N. Whittier and H. F. Vickery, while A. T. Cabot demonstrates most clearly his method of operating on empyema. Although aspiration may sometimes cure empyema in children, he says we should not long persist with the needle, for "if the long convalescence while absorption is going on leaves a puny and weakly child, this result should not be counted a success when compared with the quick and complete recovery following a free incision."

Part IV. "Diseases of the Circulatory, Hematopoietic and Glandular Systems" begins with an article on "Functional Disorders of the Heart," by Da Costa. Wm. Osler follows on "Congenital Affections of the Heart" clearly written and well illustrated. The various divisions of acquired disease of the heart are written by W. B. Cheadle, J. Mitchell Bruce, and by A. E. Sansom. Cheadle regards the heart murmurs of chorea as usually organic and of rheumatic origin, and says that the murmur which appears early in an attack of rheumatism, even if it entirely disappear, is organic and not functional. Sansom advises the use of the salicylates in cases of non-compensated valvular disease, which do not respond to restorative treatment, on the theory that slow rheumatic changes are in progress. The results of original investigations on the limits and percussion area of the pericardial effusion are given, by T. M. Rotch, in a valuable article on "Pericarditis." He concludes that the fifth right interspace should be chosen for tapping.

Over one hundred pages are devoted to Part V, where are described the "Diseases of the Mouth, Tongue and Jaws." The articles are written by Roswell Park, W. W. Allchin, J. E. Mears and others, and are thoroughly illustrated. c. w. t.

Medical and Surgical Reports of the City Hospital of the City of Boston. Fourth Series. 1889.

Like one whose limbs are of unequal length, these reports advance to honor us with their greetings. The First Series, published in 1870, presented us with the most instructive parts of the hospital experience for the first five years, to June 1869. The Second Series, intended to cover the next half decade, by a long stride, appeared seven years later. The Third Series, falling back to a half-decade gait, appeared in 1882. This year, another seven-years' stride, brings before us the Fourth Series. We are inclined to think that such irregularity of gait must be due to causes beyond the control of the members of the Hospital Staff. Were a rule to issue these Reports every five years observed, we should be to-day welcoming the Fifth, instead of the Fourth Series. But the periods of time, covered by the contributions to these volumes, suggest that such a rule is not as yet in force. We call attention to these circumstances rather