

be loath to have recourse to it, or to a similar procedure, except in very extreme cases. Among the advantages claimed for the incision is that by permitting the escape of so much liquid, the pressure is removed from the blood-vessels and absorption takes place more readily, and hence a more copious diuresis. In the dyspnoea, which is so often a distressing symptom, he thinks chloral often affords prompt relief. Of course special remedies should be employed where they seem to be indicated, as, for instance, iron in anæmia, mercury in syphilis, cod-liver oil in scrofula, and iodide of potassium in lead poisoning.

Dr. Johnson possesses the advantage of being a good microscopist as well as a practical physician, and if we think he takes too exclusive a view of the pathology of Bright's disease, we are none the less ready to award him the credit due to an original worker and an original thinker.

The book contains a good many wood-cuts illustrating specially the different varieties of casts.

J. H. H.

ART. XXXI.—*On Diseases of the Chest; being Contributions to their Clinical History, Pathology, and Treatment.* By A. T. H. WATERS, M.D., F.R.C.P., Lecturer on Medicine at the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, etc. Second Edition. Revised and Enlarged. 8vo. pp. 431. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

TIME has not changed the favorable opinion of Dr. Waters' book, which we expressed in a review written for the January number of this Journal for 1869, and we are glad to have proof of its correctness in the appearance of a second edition with additions. These are not sufficiently numerous to make it a complete treatise on diseases of the chest, and some of the new chapters are not quite as full as we could wish; they, however, unquestionably add to the value of the book. The subjects treated are as follows: Hæmoptysis, Hay Fever, Aortic Regurgitation, Mitral Constriction, Thoracic Aneurism, and the Use of Chloral in Certain Diseases of the Chest. In addition to the new chapters he has introduced diagrams of the tracings of the pulse taken by the Sphygmograph, having acquired with increased use greater confidence in this instrument as an aid to diagnosis.

Very few alterations have been made in the old chapters in the careful revision to which the author has subjected the whole of the book. We find, however, he admits that "many cases of pulmonary consumption originate in a catarrhal attack, which subsequently involves the air-sacs of the lungs, as a catarrhal pneumonia, and that in the progress of the disease the effused matters undergo destructive degeneration," thus showing that he is a convert to the theory of the inflammatory origin of phthisis. In the passage we have quoted it will be seen he no longer holds it as impossible or unlikely that an inflammatory process may extend from the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes to the walls of the air-cells, although he still retains his belief that these tissues are nourished by different sets of vessels. In the former edition of his work Dr. Waters tabulated forty-four cases of pneumonia. In the present edition the table contains no less than seventy-seven cases. His success in the management of this disease continues to be so great that it seems to us worth while to remind our readers that he treats his patients mainly with restoratives, avoiding all the more active depleting remedies, and only occasionally giving small doses of antimony. Out of the seventy-seven cases but

two proved fatal, and in one of these death took place forty-eight hours after the patient, who was in a sinking condition, was admitted into the hospital.

In the treatment of hæmoptysis Dr. Waters recommends the use of gallic acid and acetate of lead, either alone or combined with opium, and in slight cases, sulphuric acid; his experience with ergot and digitalis not having led him to place any great reliance upon them. Occasionally dry cupping and ice to the chest will be found to be useful when other remedies fail. The chapter on hay fever is not a very good one, and we are inclined to believe that the author has not had the opportunity of seeing the disease in its worst phases. He believes that the affection "in its severe form partakes somewhat of the nature of ague, and that it is caused and kept up by certain emanations and certain atmospheric conditions, which, however, harmless to some people, produce a decidedly depressing effect on the nervous system in others—that it is, in fact, a nervous disease." Iron, quinia, and strychnia are the medicines which he most frequently employs in treating it. Occasionally he has found arsenic of service, and in rheumatic or gouty patients remedies addressed to these conditions will often, he says, cause the disappearance of the symptoms. The chapters on aortic regurgitation and mitral constriction do not contain much that calls for special notice at our hands. Dr. Waters admits, what every practical physician will confirm, that marked mitral obstruction may exist without giving rise to a murmur. In the new chapter on thoracic aneurism the author reports several additional cases, and makes a few remarks in regard to the treatment and diagnosis of the disease. Rest, he thinks, affords the best chance of procuring a cure, but to attain this result it must be perfect and prolonged. Indigestion has also, in his hands, appeared to be of service, but he has little to say in favour of other remedies, except of those which may reasonably be expected to improve the nutrition of the arterial coats.

Dr. Waters recommends the use of chloral in cases of bronchitis, especially when complicated with emphysema, where, in consequence of the profuse secretion and diminished expectorating power, life is threatened, and, indeed, is often destroyed from apnoea. Opium, if given freely in these cases, will, by checking expectoration, still further load the bronchial tubes, and thus increase the liability to death. He has also recourse to chloral occasionally in cases of phthisis or pleurisy, as a means of quieting cough or of procuring sleep. In two of his patients it produced unpleasant symptoms, but he makes an allowance in the fact that the drug is a dangerous one whenever there is fatty degeneration of the heart.

J. H. H.

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ART. XXXII.—*The Microscopic Structure and Mode of Formation of Urinary Calculi.* By H. VANDYKE CARTER, M.D. (London), with Illustrations. 8vo. pp. 51. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1873.

DR. CARTER is, we believe, correct in saying, as he does in his preface, that hitherto no treatise, nor, indeed, any systematically acquired information, has been published concerning the minute structure of urinary calculi; and he has, we think, been abundantly successful in his endeavour to fill this blank in surgical literature, by producing the slender but very interesting volume, the title of which stands at the head of this article.

Eighty calculi have been examined by Dr. Carter, the method pursued being to divide each stone on one side of the middle, the actual centre being then, as