

## Book Reviews.

TRAVAUX DE NEUROLOGIE CHIRURGICALE. 1895. By A. Chipault, Braquehay, Demoulin, Daleine. Paris: Battaille & Co. 1896.

This work on the surgery of the nervous system is not complete, and is intended to be the first of a series by the same authors. The studies are largely based upon the authors' personal observations, and the book is therefore more valuable than a compiled manual. Particularly interesting are the chapters upon the intra-dural resection of the posterior roots, upon Quincke's puncture, and a series of very interesting cases, by Chipault himself, upon lesions of the brachial plexus from fractures of the clavicle and the surgical treatment thereof. In the first of these C. gives full credit to Abbe's suggestion of this operation, which was indeed made in the same week that W. H. Bennett proposed it in London. The seven cases which had been operated upon up to the publication of the present study are all considered in detail. In only four of them, one of Abbe's, one of Horsley's, and two operated by Chipault and Demoulin was the operation, properly speaking, an intra-dural resection. It may be quoted as especially interesting that in the first case upon which the authors operated, one of extreme hyperæsthesia of the right fore-arm and hand the œdema and ulcers which had covered the ulnar side of the arm and fingers, disappeared in twenty-four hours after the section of the seventh and eighth cervical and first dorsal roots, and the patient made an otherwise excellent recovery.

A dispassionate and judicious review of the dangers and advantages of vertebral punctures precedes a report of five personal cases.

The chapter on fracture-lesions of the plexus contains reports of seven personal cases, and a very interesting discussion on the neural symptoms from which it may be judged that injury of the plexus has taken place. The discussion of treatment, preventive and curative, follows, and the author concludes as follows:

"The unfortunate consequences of lesions of the plexus from clavicular fracture can almost always be cured or greatly lessened by active surgical treatment, provided it is not too late, and provided it is properly done. It appears to us proper, in spite of the possibility of spontaneous amelioration in slight cases, always to interfere when the diagnosis is once made, and, in order that therapeutic conditions may be the best, to interfere at once and thoroughly: that is to say, to make a resection of the injured portion of the clavicle, followed by osseous suture."

MITCHELL.

ATLAS DER PATHOLOGISCHEN HISTOLOGIE DES NERVENSYSTEMS. [L'Anatomie Fine de la Moelle Epinière.] Berlin, 1895. Herausgegeben von Babes, etc. iv. Lieferung.

S. R. Cajal gives a short account of the normal histology of the spinal cord, with eight plates. An atlas cannot be expected to go into all the details, but even with this excuse, the presentation is a disappointment, surely, as far as the part of the work is concerned which we do not owe to Cajal exclusively. What we need most is a