

and we believe it would pay better for men to publish their articles separately rather than in these expensive compilations.

In this volume of 900 pages 200 are given over to the consideration of the diseases of the liver and gall-bladder by Graham, of Toronto, Canada. It is a careful study of the diseases in question, and the most thorough article in the volume, but could with advantage have been somewhat condensed.

Johanson's paper on diseases of the intestines is unsatisfactory. It is one of the hardest subjects to treat well; but this article is superficial, and in a system of medicine these diseases should be described with the utmost thoroughness. The remarks on the physiology of digestion are more suited to an elementary introduction on this subject than to a paper written for advanced students.

Purpura is treated by Lockwood, who divides this affection into three groups: 1. Symptomatic purpura. 2. Purpura rheumatica. 3. Purpura hæmorrhagica. This division may be as good as any possible at present, but that it is not satisfactory is evidenced by the difficulty the author has in keeping the divisions distinct. Such trouble is largely due to our ignorance of the underlying causes of purpura, but with a little more care, we think, the paper could have been made clearer.

In an otherwise essentially good paper on diabetes mellitus, by Coleman, there occurs the following sentence: "The prognosis as regards the continuance of life is favorable, when diabetes mellitus has become transformed into diabetes insipidus." Either there is some mistake here, or the statement demands elucidation, since such transformation is not generally supposed to occur.

Starr's paper on cretinism and myxædema is excellent and illustrated by some of the most interesting photographs of children suffering from the latter disease that we have seen.

The volume, as a whole, is quite up to date, and the selection of authors for special subjects has been well chosen; and yet there is little that is new, nothing markedly original, and nothing to stamp the work as one of much present value or of lasting benefit to the profession.

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PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Inhalations of Vinegar to Control Nausea and Vomiting after Chloroform.—DR. J. TORRANCE RUGH states that the inhalation of vinegar for the relief of vomiting was first proposed in 1829. The explanation, as given by Lewin, is that the free chlorine, one of the products of chloroform, is neutralized by the acetic acid; the chlorine, acting as a marked irritant to the pharyngeal mucous membrane, induces vomiting. The simplest explanation of the good effects of vinegar is that its pungency stimulates—it being too dilute to exert any irritative action—the respiratory mucous membrane, promotes the normal secretions, and, by its soothing action upon the peripheral nerves of the parts, lessens the irritability of the pneumogastric or its centres, and the reflex condition of vomiting is controlled. Furthermore, that this is a restorative and soothing stimulant to the respiratory tract and to the nervous system is well attested by its widespread use in vinaigrettes in place of “smelling salts.” It also relieves thirst, is free from toxic effects, and its simplicity and efficiency commend it.—*Philadelphia Polyclinic*, 1898, No. 9, p. 110.

Note on Diastatic Preparations.—DR. WILLIS E. TUCKER has tested the diastatic properties of certain preparations of malt containing cod-liver oil. Three specimens of each manufacturer were carefully tested, and the results are stated in parts by weight of maltose, or its equivalent, in reducing sugar, produced by one part of each of the preparations examined, and the averages as found were as follows: (1) 4.54, (2) 1.46, (3) 0.52. The first preparation was maltzyme. Such preparations as this have been aptly styled “digestive foods,” and their value depends upon the amounts of active diastase which they contain. For this enzyme, possessing the property of bringing starch in food into a soluble condition and converting it into easily assimilable forms of dextrin and sugar, is a valuable aid to digestion in cer-