

*International Clinics: a quarterly of Clinical Lectures.*

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THE aim of the editors is "to make this periodical," which is to appear quarterly, "a complete post-graduate course of medical instruction," and the first volume has certainly some claim to be considered, so far as it goes, a fairly successful attempt in this direction. It is a collection of recent clinical lectures given by a portion of presumably "the most prominent teachers of all the well-known colleges of medicine and hospitals of the United States, Great Britain, and Canada;" and we notice that the Transatlantic section of this powerful combination of men of light and leading in the medical world contribute some three-fourths of the lectures contained in the present volume, a proportion which is hardly calculated to secure it on that side of the water where it is supposed to appear, that quantum of support which maketh glad the heart of the publisher.

The complete series of lectures are apparently intended to embrace the clinical side of every subject within the whole range of the healing art, so that when complete the series now initiated will be of itself an exhaustive clinical encyclopædia of every known disease.

The present issue touches upon many subjects of interest to the neurologist, the first lecture being on a case of acromegaly, by Prof. James Ross, of Manchester. Several tables of measurements in every conceivable direction are given, though it seems a little uncertain with what normal standard these are to be compared. There are also perimetric tracings of the patient's field of vision, which is deficient bi-temporally, and some reproductions of photographs of the patient. In this case Dr. Ross has reason to think there is persistence of the thymus gland, and apparently he attributes the state of the field of vision to pressure on the optic chiasma by a possibly enlarged pituitary body. He believes with Erb that the nearest allies of this disease will be found to be myxœdema and sporadic cretinism, and that the alteration in the bones will prove to be secondary to the morbid alterations in the ductless glands.

Prof. Shaltuck, of Harvard, contributes lectures on a case of uræmic convulsions and on a case of epilepsy, both of a type calculated to appeal to the student rather than the practitioner.

Mr. Hulke, of the Middlesex Hospital, gives a careful account of an interesting case of cranial injury in a woman with a syphilitic taint, judiciously tracing back the symptoms to the most probable traumatic lesions.

Prof. Parvin, of Jefferson Medical College, in discussing a "Case of Ovaralgia with Spinal Irritation and Anæmia," devotes himself mainly to a consideration of the immorality of oöphorectomy, or of a pretended performance of this operation in the treatment of such cases.

Prof. Gray, of New York, is represented by a short lecture of an elementary character on "Different types of Paralysis in Young Children," differentiating them into two groups, cerebral and spinal. Myopathies he does not mention.

Sir Dyce Duckworth contributes an interesting lecture on chorea, illustrated by four cases. He regards it as a symptom, not as a disease, attempting to prove the thesis that chorea is a manifestation of the rheumatic habit or diathesis, which is in itself primarily a disease of the nervous system, and introducing the hypothesis of a peculiar neurosis—capable of hereditary transmission or transformation in the subjects of which may be set up at one time rheumatic, at another choreic, manifestations—to explain the many cases of chorea in which no rheumatic history can be obtained. Chloral is given the palm as controlling the movements, and arsenic as restoring to the normal the perverted nutrition of the nerve centres.

Prof. Wood, of the University of Pennsylvania, gives two good lectures on "Traumatic sore back" and "Traumatic hysteria" respectively, describing in the latter the successful result of a varied treatment, too heroic in some of its details, we are afraid, to be submitted to by patients here.

Prof. Sachs, of New York, sends over a lecture on "Neurasthenia," illustrated by four cases, interesting in their way, in which he recommends the usual routine treatment.

Prof. Mills, of Philadelphia, contributes a really good lecture on two very interesting cases of myotonia (Thomsen's disease) and athetoid spasm respectively. Though in the former the electrical reaction which Erb considers peculiar to the disease was not elicited, yet in other respects the case seems to have been typical, and the consideration of it is well worth reading.

Prof. David Ferrier is represented by a lecture of the typical post-graduate order on "Alcoholic paralysis," in which considerable attention is devoted to its pathology. Antipyrin is recommended to relieve the pains and paræsthesiæ.

Dr. Weir Mitchell gives a very useful and suggestive lecture on "The Treatment of Obstinate Sciatic Pain by Splint Rest and Cold," a method which he claims has succeeded in most obstinate cases of sciatic neuritis amenable to no other treatment.

Prof. Julian Chisholm, of the University of Maryland, contributes a useful and lucid lecture on "Astigmatism, a very common and often unrecognised cause of Headache," and certainly his advice to the general practitioner to constantly bear in mind the *raison d'être* of his lecture is not uncalled for.

The general substance of the lectures seems of a kind to render them more fitted for senior students than for recently qualified practitioners, and to the former we can recommend them as embracing many essentials only lightly touched upon in text-books.

E. A. SHAW.

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"*Die Myoclonie.*" By Prof. Dr. H. UNVERRICHT, Director der Medicinischer Klinik zu Dorpat.

THIS is a valuable addition to the literature on the subject, for the author has been at great pains to collect all the previously recorded cases, and to weed out from the literature those conditions which have been confounded with that under consideration. An attempt has been made to classify the cases into certain distinct groups, the wisdom of which attempt we are inclined to question, for in the present state of our knowledge, the result must necessarily be very imperfect, as is the case here. Several new cases are recorded, otherwise the work cannot be said to have added many new facts to our previous knowledge of the subject. The part which deals with the differential diagnosis deserves more than passing notice, as it has been dealt with in a masterly manner.

Allusion is first made to Friedreich, as having singled out this affection from the chaos of motor neuroses, and as having shown that it is a distinct affection, presenting a well-marked, and easily recognisable clinical picture. The symptoms which Friedreich considered typical of the condition, and his views as to its nature, are then referred to. The cases of five sisters, who came under the observation of the author, are next quoted in full, and the symptoms which characterise this clinical entity discussed *seriatim*, after which the conditions with which it is most likely to be confounded are mentioned, and the points which serve to distinguish them, pointed out.

We fully concur with the author when, after referring to the condition described by Hammond under the term "Convulsive Tremor," he questions the advisability of attempting, as the