

In the mannual before us, Mr. Davis has presented a very fair exposition of the leading facts connected with the science, the importance of which he enforces with so much truth in the foregoing sentences.

In his observations upon food and drinks, he has avoided most of those errors into which the preceding British writers upon Hygiene were so generally led from incorrect views of the physiology of the human body, and an entire neglect of the lessons of daily experience.

The work of Mr. Davis may be safely recommended to the attention of the nonprofessional reader, for whose use it is mainly composed. On more than one point we certainly differ from the opinions advanced by the author, but those are neither so important nor prominent as to impair, in our estimation, the value of the leading doctrines inculcated by him.

D. F. C.

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ART. XVII. *Treatise on the Radical Cure of Hernia by instruments, embracing an analysis of the mechanical properties of the various trusses now in use, a description of the new instruments invented by the author, and general directions to patients for the safe employment of these instruments, with hints to surgeons in their application, &c.; with numerous illustrations.* By HEBER CHASE, M. D., Philadelphia, 1836. 1 vol. 8vo, pp. 195.

This treatise may be considered as an exposition of the experience, now very considerable, of its author, in the treatment of *hernia*, and presents many points of great interest and utility. It is said with truth, by him, that much of the management of *hernia* has passed from the hands of the profession to those of the patients and other unscientific persons, who are but too frequently more influenced by a desire to make money than to sustain reputation. With a view to correct the evils of such a state of things, Dr. Chase has composed the work before us.

The arrangement of it is good, and well suited to the object in view. The first chapter is applied to the anatomical description of *hernia*, in its numerous points of occurrence. The second chapter treats of the symptoms of the disease in its various stages, and the third of the means of reduction by taxis, and so on.

Chapter the 4th is devoted to an analysis of the mode of action of trusses in retaining *hernia*, and as a consequence of that inquiry, contains also a description of the more common forms of such instruments, and especially such as are most approved of at present by their general adoption in this country. After that, we are furnished with an account of the progress and present state of improvement in the construction of wooden truss-blocks. It is there stated, that as Mr. Stagner and Dr. Hood had obtained patents for their trusses, the author, Dr. Chase, purchased rights in them, to avoid legal difficulties, and from this cause his name and that of Dr. Hood were associated at a former period, but that he now considers the instruments recommended in this work to be so essentially different, that they can be no longer regarded as modifications of the first. The vindications of this claim of originality are too much in detail to be introduced in the present bibliography, but are well worthy of the pages of a critical review.

The chapter on the *modus operandi* of instruments, in producing the radical cure of *hernia*, is well worthy of attentive perusal; it is highly ingenious and argumentative, and perhaps not the less so for the reason that there is really in professional records a deplorable deficiency of positive observations on the successive stages and ultimate state of parts which have been relieved from hernial protrusions.

Chapter 9th, treats of the cases and results obtained by the use of Dr. Chase's truss, and from the experience there exhibited, holds out a strong ground of hope that the profession is now furnished with an instrument of very decided and, at least, extensive utility.

W. E. H.

ART. XVIII. *Medicina Externa Morborum Internorum, sive Methodi Iatraléptice et Endermaticæ Expositio Historica, Physiologica et Therapeutica, nec non utriusque Comparatio.* Auctore CANOLO JOSEPHO VAN COOTH, Med. Stud. Trajecti ad Rhenum, 1834. 8vo. pp. 317.

*External remedies in Internal Diseases; or a Historical, Physiological, and Therapeutical Exposition of the Iatraléptic and Endermic Methods of Treatment, with a comparison between them.* By C. J. VAN COOTH. Utrecht, 1834.

In 1831, the Medical Faculty of the University of Utrecht offered a premium for the best exposition, founded upon anatomico-physiological principles and well established facts, of the actual value of external medication in the treatment of internal diseases; which premium was awarded on the 26th of March, 1832, to the essay before us.

Although the production of a student of medicine, and exclusively compiled from the writings of others, it nevertheless presents much higher claims to our notice than the ordinary class of prize essays—comprising a valuable collection of facts, methodically arranged, in relation to a subject which has elicited too little attention from the profession in this country.

The work is divided into five chapters.

The first contains a historical account of the employment of external remedies.

The second embraces an investigation into the anatomico-physiological principles upon which the employment of external remedies is based, and their effects upon the internal organs are explained.

The third treats of the Iatraléptic method, or the application of remedial agents to different parts of the surface of the body, the cuticle remaining entire.

The fourth contains an exposition of the endermic method, or the application of medicines to portions of the surface denuded of the cuticle.

The fifth presents a comparison between these two methods. The whole being followed by sixteen corollaries which the author conceives are legitimately deducible from the facts set forth in the essay.

M. Van Cooth is a very decided advocate for external medication, under particular circumstances of disease, either as a substitute for, or as an auxiliary to the ordinary treatment by internal remedies. His view of the subject is, upon the whole, however, extremely judicious and fully sustained by the facts which he has adduced. With him we fully concur in opinion, that, by the judicious physician, the application of remedial agents to the surface of the body may often be resorted to with advantage as a means of fulfilling important indications, whenever, as is frequently the case, he is precluded from administering the appropriate remedies by the mouth.

In a general consideration of external remedies for the cure of internal maladies would be necessarily included, not only such as produce, when applied to the surface, effects similar to those which result from the same articles, when introduced into the stomach, but, also, such as produce simply a stimulant or sedative impression upon the exterior of the body, and in this manner indirectly concur in relieving the internal organs and tissues from disease, as for instance friction, bathing, rubefacients, blisters, setons, issues, moxas, &c. It is only the former class, however, which constitute the subject of the present essay.