

ART. XXV.—*Treatment of Fractures of the Lower Extremity by the Use of the Anterior Suspensory Apparatus.* By N. R. SMITH, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland. 8vo. pp. 70. Baltimore: Kelly & Piet, 1867.

WE regret to have to say that this volume can scarcely add to the deservedly high reputation of its author, and is but adapted to produce a feeling of disappointment in the minds of its purchasers. The anterior splint, or rather the principle of suspension in the treatment of affections of the lower extremity, is of enough importance to merit a much more thorough and careful consideration than is here given to it.

The author's style is frequently obscure, and at times scarcely characterized by that dignity which befits a scientific essay; and the only really valuable portion of the book is the collection of cases at the end, which, with one exception, are sufficiently well reported, and would have formed an appropriate and useful contribution to one of our numerous medical journals.

The volume is badly printed, though with much pretension to elegance; and the wood-cuts, though tolerably numerous, are not particularly well executed. The publishers have thought fit to append a long catalogue of their stock of medical literature, which being printed in exactly the same style as the text of the book itself, is apt to mislead the hasty purchaser into the impression that he is buying a work nearly one-half larger than that which he actually obtains.

J. A., Jr.

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ART. XXVI.—*Practical Dissections.* By RICHARD HODGES, M. D. Formerly University Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Medical Department of Harvard. Second Edition, thoroughly revised. 12mo. pp. 286. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1867.

THIS little book appears in its second edition in an entirely new dress, and is presented to the profession through a Philadelphia publisher. Thirty-two pages have been added to the original impression, and its title-page informs us that the work has been thoroughly revised. We notice that the general rules to be observed in dissecting have been re-written; and a number of typographical errors, pointed out in this Journal in a notice of the first edition, have been corrected. The result is creditable to Dr. Hodges, and indicates that if, with its minor deficiencies, the book has passed through its first edition, that now, with these deficiencies in part supplied, and its subject-matter increased, it may command an increased sale.

The author shields himself from the charge of insufficient description in his opening sentence of the Preface, where he states that "the *Practical Dissections* is not a treatise on anatomy, nor in any way a substitute for one. It is intended to be simply a practical guide in the ordinary dissections of the medical student; describing on the same page, and in connection, the muscles, nerves, arteries, veins, or other structures which are conjointly exposed." We therefore have nothing to say to the extreme incompleteness of those portions having important surgical relations, as for example in the account of the male perineum. We cannot refrain from regretting, however, that in an elementary work descriptions of organs should occasionally be overloaded with the absurd nomenclature of the old anatomists, especially since efforts have been made on the part of prominent teachers to institute a simpler one. Thus, in the account of the external ear, "innominate fossa" is employed in preference to "fossa of the helix,"—while "scaphoid fossa," which is given in all authorities we are familiar with as synonymous with "innominate fossa," is applied to the "fossa of the anti-helix" (fossa triangularis). The equally ancient classification of cranial nerves, according to Willis, is adhered to in preference to that of Soemmering,

which is in all respects its superior. Again, no relations, surgical or otherwise, are given to the parts described; while in no instance is a function assigned to any muscle, membrane, or nerve. These omissions present objections to those who believe that simplicity of statement and an early recognition on the part of the student of the uses of organs are important features in teaching. But they are errors of omission only, not of commission. We find the author at all times at ease with his subject; and it would, we conceive, be a difficult matter to state the same number of facts with equal conciseness and perspicuity in a smaller space.

Appended to the Dissector is a chapter, suggested by an interesting article by Luther Holden, in 2d vol. *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, entitled "Important Anatomical Landmarks and Points, capable of being Studied without Dissection, or upon the Living Subject." This is an admirable feature, and should, we think, enter into all treatises on anatomy. We cannot speak so favourably of the chapter on the anatomy of the fœtus, which is too meagre, and will not stand comparison with similar sections in other works.      H. A.

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ART. XXVII.—*Notes on Fractures of the Upper Extremity.* By JOHN H. PACKARD, M. D., one of the Surgeons of the Episcopal Hospital of Philadelphia. 8vo. pp. 58. New York, 1867.

No class of injuries is more interesting to the practical surgeon than that of fractures, as well from the frequency of their occurrence in ordinary experience, as from the fact that they are almost always (if we may use the term) acute cases, their treatment being generally susceptible of satisfactory completion without the weariness on the part of both patient and doctor, which is so apt to attend the management of other common surgical affections, such as ulcers, burns and scalds, or chronic affections of the joints.

The pamphlet before us contains, as we learn from a foot-note, the substance of a series of lectures (the second under a bequest of the late Dr. Mütter) delivered in April, 1866, at the hall of the Philadelphia College of Physicians. The foundation of this "Mütter Lectureship" on Surgical Pathology we regard as one of the most important provisions for the extension of medical science that has been instituted in Philadelphia for many years. It will be remembered, by our readers, that Mr. Paget's admirable lectures upon Surgical Pathology were originally written for delivery upon a similar foundation; lectures that in their published form have passed through many editions and gained for their author a deserved and world-wide reputation.

Dr. Packard is already well known to our readers as a writer upon Fractures, from having some years since translated and edited the first volume of the inimitable work of Malgaigne. In the pamphlet before us Dr. Packard has confined his remarks to the fractures of the upper extremity, and has illustrated his pages with numerous original woodcuts. The pamphlet consists of five portions, discussing respectively (1) the structure of bone and the general causes of fracture; (2) fractures of the clavicle; (3) fractures of the scapula and humerus; (4) fractures of the forearm; and (5) fractures of the lower extremity of the radius.

We are pleased to see that Dr. Packard has very clearly pointed out the beautiful arrangement of interlacing arches in the intimate structure of bones, by which their strength is so greatly increased.

In opposition to the views of Malgaigne, Hamilton, and others, Dr. Packard believes the displacement and deformity in cases of fracture to be almost entirely due to the action of the circumjacent muscles at the moment of fracture. The example which he gives of deformity produced by another cause—viz., the outward rotation in fractured thigh from the weight of the foot—seems to us, however, rather an unfortunate illustration, as the same outward rotation occasionally persists even when the foot is replaced in the vertical position; just as eversion