

has been omitted in the new revision. This is to be regretted. It seems a pity that a somewhat philosophical chapter like that on the physiognomy of disease should be written in a style that is sometimes obscure, from the length of the sentences and the number of parenthetical phrases. Here and there in the book we come across a Scotticism which has slipped in unnoticed. The word *incipient*, which occurs somewhat frequently, might be allowed to drop out of medical terminology with advantage. Its proper meaning of "*commencing*" is unobjectionable; but it is unfortunately used also in the sense of "*being present, but without showing any signs of its presence*," and thus is a convenient cover for a guess, which is hazarded without sufficient foundation in fact. "*Incipient consumption*" is a not uncommon "*diagnosis*" where a delicate patient, with no organic disease, is the subject of solicitude. It is noticeable also that typhus is frequently used in this book as a type of an acute febrile illness. Typhus is now by no means a common disease, and so is a bad one to choose as an example. There is sometimes a suspicion that "*typhoid*" may have been intended, but it certainly is not so in many of the instances where "*typhus*" occurs.

A very marked improvement in this over the previous edition is the giving a good bibliography at the end of each chapter, instead of mentioning a few works in a foot-note at the commencement of each subject.

A very careful revision has, in fact, increased the value of a very useful work.

LECTURES ON DISEASES OF THE NOSE AND THROAT. By CHARLES E. SAJOUS, M.D., of Philadelphia. Illustrated with 100 chromo-lithographs from oil paintings by the author, and 93 engravings on wood. 8vo. pp. 439. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis, Att'y. London: Cassel & Co., 1885.

THIS is a very fair exposition of the subject for the beginner and is much above the average of most elementary treatises on nasal and throat affections. The more modern appliances employed in the diagnosis and treatment of this class of diseases are figured and their uses explained in a clear and concise manner, while a number of new instruments, or modifications of old ones, are added from the armamentarium of the author. We are surprised that a Philadelphian should call the Fahrenstock tonsillotome "*Mathieu's*," and should be apparently unfamiliar with the best of such instruments, the tonsil guillotine of Physick.

The methods of treatment are, as a rule, those usually resorted to by specialists in this country and may be safely followed by the student. The descriptions of diseased conditions are in many respects incomplete and superficial and important omissions occur which detract from the completeness and mar the symmetry of the volume. Thus, for example, although nearly one-half the work is (very properly) devoted to diseases of the nasal passages, no reference is made, except incidentally in the chapter on "*hay fever*," to the nasal reflex neuroses, a subject which, above all others, is the burning rhinological question of the hour.

On page 138 the incorrect statement is made that Voltolini, in 1872, first showed that asthma arose from "*pressure upon or irritation of the posterior ends of the turbinated bones*."

One of the principal features of this book, and that which will perhaps attract most attention, is the pictorial. The colored illustrations vary in excellence. It may be said, in general, that those which represent the macroscopical appearances will be found of great value to those who desire to familiarize themselves with the morbid conditions which they indicate, and that they possess the additional advantage of originality. Those, on the other hand, intended to set forth the microscopical appearances (as, for example, the erectile tissue and atrophic rhinitis) do not present either in color or design even a diagrammatic resemblance to the original. Indeed, it may be said that the color of all the plates needs toning down and that they would be more true to nature if executed in less pronounced shades of red and blue.

We are sorry to find that certain incorrect statements and unsupported claims to originality made in the brochure of the author on "hay fever" are reproduced without alteration in the present volume. Dr. Sajous not only creates the impression, but makes the direct affirmation that the combination of the three prevalent theories regarding the disease was suggested by him in a paper read and published in 1883, whereas the latter contains no evidence whatsoever of such intention. The assertion that the combination of factors—i. e., the external irritant, the abnormal excitability of the nerve centres and sensitive area through which the system is influenced—was affirmed in his first article, not only, therefore, carries with it a wrong impression but seemingly invests the author with a sort of prescience which enabled him, in manifest and acknowledged ignorance of Beard's researches and long before certain more recent theories were propounded, to reconcile all with the pollen theory in the triumphant solution of the problem.

We can scarcely believe that Dr. Sajous is serious in his claim to priority in the matter of treatment by cauterization of the nasal mucous membrane, or, as he prefers to call it, "superficial organic alteration." As is well known to those acquainted with the literature of the question, this line of treatment had been distinctly laid down by others long before Dr. Sajous ever wrote upon the subject, and if the author's language be compared with that of those whose written and published contributions preceded his own clinical observations in the matter, it will readily be seen that the substitution of the ponderous phrase "superficial organic alteration" for the more commonplace term "cauterization" is but the trading of words in the interest of a distinction without a difference, and is eminently suggestive of the distance that separates Tweedledum from Tweedledee.

The observations of Dr. Sajous are interesting as giving support to one side of the present doctrine concerning "hay fever," but the historical facts in the case unfortunately exclude him from originality both in the matter of the pathology and the treatment of the disease.

We have refrained from going into an extended criticism of the author's claims and have made the above statements in the interest of historical accuracy and in simple justice to those from whose observations and experience the new conceptions of this affection have arisen. We have done so also in justice to the author, for in their uncorrected condition, his publications place him in the false light of a pioneer in matters in which he is simply and solely a follower.

On the whole, the book is written in an easy style, its general make-up is excellent, and we can cheerfully commend it to the student, who will find in it much practical information.

J. N. M.