

diseases; 3rd, prophylaxis in general against infectious diseases; 4th, important precautions in the management of communicable diseases; and of these four, the second takes up quite one-half of the book, and the reviewer is disappointed in the work as a whole. There is almost nothing new in it, and almost all that is contained in the second chapter will be found in any good modern text-book of medicine. Perhaps in these days, when nearly every professor, as well as every student in medicine, is in a hurry to appear in print, one should not look for much original work; but in a text-book on this subject, we had hoped to find more that was truly serviceable to the student. It may serve satisfactorily as a series of lectures to students beginning the study of medicine, but for the advanced student it is of but little value. We are disappointed, not because the work is no better, but because we do not think it equal to the author's small work on bacteriology, which, considering its object as an introduction to more advanced work in the same line, we consider far superior to the present work.

*The Gross and Minute Anatomy of the Central Nervous System.* By H. C. GORDINIER, A. M., M. D. P. Blakiston's Sons & Co., Philadelphia, 1899.

Dr. Gordinier's book is, we believe, the first to be written in the English language on the Anatomy of the Nervous System. The volume of the work, covering as it does nearly 700 pages, suggests that such a book is needed; certainly the imperfect and superficial view of the subject presented in some of the common text-books on nervous diseases is extremely unsatisfactory to the student of neurology.

The book begins very properly with a chapter on the histologic elements peculiar to the nervous system, and then proceeds to take up in order the spinal cord, the medulla and the brain, ending with chapters on cerebral localization, the embryology of the nervous system, and the technique of brain and cord examinations. Throughout the book the descriptions of the gross and minute anatomy, are as a rule, clear, objective, and as easy of comprehension as could be expected of so difficult a subject. The statements are most of them quite didactically made, but this we consider an advantage rather than a defect, especially in a text-book for students as well as practitioners. It is probably the experience of most men who have engaged in teaching, that facts, even those about which there is a suspicion of doubt, must be impressed upon the student's mind as facts, if they are to be remembered. Occasionally one meets a somewhat involved sentence, and in a few places the author makes the mistake of taking a certain amount of knowledge on the subject, on the part of the student, for granted.

The chapter on cerebral localization is carefully written, and gives the most recent results on the subject, including the author's work on the center for writing; this chapter should be of especial value to the practicing physician.

The chapter on embryology is clear and concise, and that on tech-

nique contains only carefully tested and standard methods. Taken as a whole, the work may be regarded as a fair digest of the standard literature on the subject tinctured with the author's own experience, and free from too purely theoretical views. For a first edition the mistakes are few, and consist mainly of slight typographical errors. The illustrations, particularly the diagrammatic ones, are good. As to the photomicrographs, we are of the opinion that their field of usefulness is as yet very limited as illustrative of any class of lesion, nervous or otherwise. Whilst possessing the advantage of showing the sections as they actually appear under the microscope, they can so seldom be reproduced with clearness, that in our opinion, good wood-cuts are generally better.

Aside from the few defects mentioned, we consider that the book fulfils the object with which it was written, viz., that of supplying the medical student and practitioner with a systematic text-book on this subject.

G. B.

*The Proceedings of the New York Pathological Society for 1897-98.*

The volume consists as usual of brief and generally superficial reports of a great variety of cases, some of which are of ordinary interest, while others seem to have been worthy of a more detailed report, perhaps in a separate publication. There are also a few preliminary communications on researches which have since been reported in full. The volume is concluded by a very interesting and readable address by Dr. Sedgwick on the principles underlying the sanitary arrangement of a public water supply, in which he especially emphasizes the importance of the storage and quiescence of the water before it is used.

It is unfortunate that in a report of so recent date, the notes on cases are hurried into print so meagre in detail and showing so little effort toward thorough investigation of the lesions.

W. G. M.

*Nervous and Mental Diseases.* By CHARLES S. POTTS, M. D., Instructor in Nervous Diseases, University of Pennsylvania, etc. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1900.

This neatly printed and well-arranged little book is not intended to take the place of any of systematic text-books but merely to serve as an introduction to their study. It relates to general symptomatology and methods of diagnosis rather than to treatment, although the latter is not neglected. The degree of compression required to bring the sciences of neurology and psychiatry into the limits of 450 12 mo pages, of necessity prevents the presentation of much beyond the baldest facts, which in the present case are presented judiciously and carefully. The section on mental diseases has suffered most from compression and but little exceeds forty pages. To those persons who desire to refresh their recollection of facts once learned but growing dim, the little book can be commended as an excellent hand-book.