

ant contribution to our knowledge of medical agents, and forming an excellent model for future writers on the *materia medica*. R. E. G.

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ART. XX.—*Fevers; their Diagnosis, Pathology, and Treatment. Prepared and edited, with large additions, from the Essays on Fever in Tweedie's Library of Practical Medicine.* By MEREDITH CLYMER, M. D., &c. &c. 8vo: pp. 604. Philadelphia, 1846. Lea & Blanchard.

THE present volume is made up of the *Essays on Fever* which appeared in Tweedie's *Library of Practical Medicine*, with copious additions, in the text, and an entire chapter on typhoid fever, by the American editor. Thus composed, the work presents a very full and fair exposition of the received doctrines concerning the pathology and treatment of fevers. We should, it is true, have preferred an original treatise on this important class of diseases, but in the absence of this, we are willing to receive as a substitute, and it must be confessed a very able one, the volume before us.

The essays composing the body of the work have been for some time before the profession,—and a decidedly favourable opinion of their merit, has been very unanimously expressed;—it will, therefore, be unnecessary for us at this time to enter into a critical examination of them. They are all unquestionably, very able productions. The delineations they present of the several forms of fever, as well as the exposition given in them of their etiology, are, in general, full and accurate, while the pathological and therapeutical views inculcated, if not always incontrovertible, are at least such as have received the sanction of the greater proportion of the more authoritative writers of the present day.

The most exceptionable essay contained in the volume is that, perhaps, of Dr. Shapter on yellow fever. It cannot, with strict propriety, be said to give either a clear or accurate description of that all-important disease; we certainly do not recognize in it a correct portraiture of the fever as it has heretofore appeared epidemically, or still continues to occur as an endemic, in different portions of the United States. We very much doubt, indeed, whether any one would be able to identify the disease, should he happen to meet with a case, from a recollection of the confused description given of it in the essay referred to. The brief delineations added to the essay by Dr. Clymer, from one or two American physicians, are far more faithful to truth, and convey a much better picture of the disease as it ordinarily presents itself, than the more elaborate account given in the essay of Dr. Shapter,—which has failed to afford any very accurate or useful delineation of the usual characters and course of yellow fever, as it presents itself to the American physician, evidently from the want of a familiarity with the leading characteristics of that form of disease to which the term yellow fever should invariably be restricted.

We regret that Dr. Clymer has not added a chapter on this disease, drawn from the ample material furnished in the recorded observations of the practitioners of our own country.

The additions that have been made to the several essays by Dr. Clymer are appropriate and judicious, and, while they form a very considerable proportion, augment materially the value of the work, by supplying the more important of these observations and facts,—doctrinal as well as practical—in reference to the leading forms of fever, that have been developed since the essays contained in the volume before us first appeared.

The chapter on typhoid fever by Dr. Clymer presents a condensed but very able and accurate delineation of the semeiology, pathological characters and usual course of this very important disease.

To the library of both student and practitioner the work will, upon the whole, be found a valuable addition. D. F. C.