

that it is not there. And it is not the presence of stone that justifies operation. A stone or stones in the gall-bladder may be perfectly harmless ; we have no right to meddle with them unless they produce serious discomfort and danger."

This is the teaching of common sense combined with a practical knowledge of modern abdominal surgery.

Mr. Greig Smith's book is no mere dry enumeration of facts, theories and arguments, fit only for the specialist and operating surgeon to refer to. Every physician and practitioner who reads anything besides his daily newspaper, ought to find time to go through this book. He will find no better, no more pleasant way of learning what surgery can now do for a proportion of sufferers not small in any class of medical or family practice. And a further recommendation of this book is that it is not one likely to tempt self-sufficient and ambitious meddlers to try their untrained, unpracticed hands on cases beyond their capacity ; because its author recognizes clearly and expresses plainly the truth which should now be obvious to all that a successful surgeon must be both born and made, and that the making can only be done by time, experience and *correct* example and precept.

C. B. KEETLEY.

PRELECTIONES ANATOMIÆ UNIVERSALIS. By WILLIAM HARVEY (Harvey's Manuscript Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology). Edited with an autotype reproduction of the original by a committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1886, Imp. 8vo., pp. 392.

To Sir Edward Sieveking the medical world owes a debt of gratitude that cannot well be repaid for securing the reproduction and transcript of Harvey's manuscript notes of his Lumleian Lectures on Anatomy and Physiology delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in the years 1616, 1617 and 1618. The work is one unique in literature for the facsimile reproduction of so extensive a manuscript has never before been accomplished. Here we see Harvey, the student and teacher, the physician and physiologist, the surgeon and obstetrician, and the modest Christian scientist. It is the real Harvey of the laboratory, unobscured by any tinge of artificiality or yielding to public opinion. We catch a glimpse of the deliberation with which he put forth his conclusions, for we find that twelve years before he published his discovery of the circulation of the blood, he formulated his opinion upon the subject in the following words:

“ Constat per fabricam cordis sanguinem  
 per pulmones in Aortam perpetuo  
 transferri, as by two clacks of a  
 water bellows to rayse water  
 constat per ligaturam transitum sanguinis  
 ab arteriis ad venas  
 unde  $\Delta$  perpetuum sanguinis motum  
 in circulo fieri pulsu cordis.’”

Fancy, in our age of cacoethes scribendi and reckless strife for professional precedence, a student devoting twelve years to studies confirmatory of an important discovery before publishing it!

The autotypes show how great a labor was accomplished by Mr. Edward Scott in preparing a readable transcript of the manuscript, and recalls the naive remark of Harvey's "lo friend Mr. Doctor Ent,"<sup>1</sup> in editing his work on Generation, that, "our author writes a hand which no one without practice can easily read (a thing that is common among our men of letters)," a characteristic which, by the way, may also be observed in the extant specimens of the chirography of Vesalius.

But when the text is deciphered, the difficulty of reading the work is by no means at an end, for the orthography of Harvey savored of originality in Latin as well as in English, and the Latin of these notes is as knotty and puzzling as the chirography and would have heavily taxed the ingenuity of Seneca or Quintilian. However, an idea of the meaning can be obtained with considerable readiness, although a translation is in places almost impossible. In running over the notes, the reader is amused by the comical jumble of Latin and English seen at points where perhaps a Latin equivalent did not occur to the writer in making his rapid notes. A few pages before the quotation given above, occurs the following quaint sentence: "Exempto corde frogg scipp eel crawle dogg ambulat," which might puzzle the most experienced Latinist.

The work is prefaced by an introduction which is all too brief and leaves much to be desired. A sketch of the life and methods of work of England's immortal anatomist would have added not a little to the interest of the book. This may not be a fault, and if it is, it is the only one, for with its large clear type, beautifully tinted paper, broad margins, its splendidly executed autotypes and its luxurious Roxburgh binding, the work is a superb exemplar over which the bibliophile may well wax enthusiastic and gloat with covetous eyes.

JAMES E. PILCHER.

<sup>1</sup>Widely Harvey's Last Will and Testament.