AN American physician who takes a good deal of interest in this country recently observed to us that the Glasgow medical school does not publish as much as it ought to. It must, however, be laid to Professor McCall Anderson's credit that he at any rate has taken a very fair share of the teacher's burden, and we congratulate him that after the experience, as he puts it, of upwards of a quarter of a century as hospital physician and clinical teacher, he continues to give us the results of his observation instead of resting on laurels already won, and leaving it to novices to write their way into fame.

The present work is a well got up volume of more than four hundred pages, and consists of matter which is in part new and in part reprinted from earlier publications of the author. It is divided into six sections, which are respectively headed as follows:—General Diseases; Diseases of the Nervous System; Diseases of the Circulatory System; Diseases of the Respiratory System; Diseases of the Digestive System; and Diseases of the Urinary System. Each of these divisions of the work contains from four to eight chapters. As the title implies, this is not a systematic treatise, but a miscellaneous collection of clinical lectures and essays. Those who have attended Professor Anderson's class or have studied his older writings will find here much that is familiar, as, for instance, his teaching on the subject of syphilis and on the curability of acute phthisis—points on which he has recognised it to be his mission to appeal to the profession for many years past. Similarly, the chapter on the treatment of myxœdema is a paper that was read in 1892, the year after Dr. Murray recommended the administration of thyroid extract; one of the cases reported here was treated without thyroid medication, and, it must be confessed, showed a remarkable degree of improvement. Other cases, though already published, are still recent—e.g., hydroa aestivale with hæmatoporphyrinuria in two brothers.

The author is so well known as a lucid clinical teacher that commendation on that score is not required here. We sometimes think we should like him to venture further out with his special province, and give us with greater detail his views
on the morbid anatomy as well as on the clinical aspects of a case. Students, we feel sure, would appreciate this.

We cannot, of course, accept as an article of our faith everything that is taught in this work. That would scarcely be human, and we freely admit that the inability may be due to a defect in ourselves even more than to any demerit on the part of our author. We cannot but recognise the attractiveness of the writer's style, which makes this work a very readable book, and we congratulate him upon the wide and ably utilised experience upon which it is founded. If students should read this volume, some of them might be misled by the remark on p. 77 about the facial nerve being “implicated after its decussation.” As a matter of fact, the facial nerve itself does not decussate to any extent, but the motor path from the cortex to the nucleus of the facial nerve does cross the middle line.

Students and friends of the author will be glad to possess in this convenient form a permanent record of so many interesting cases. The work is provided with an index.

The Retrospect of Medicine. Edited by James Braithwaite, M.D. Lond., assisted by E. F. Trevelyan, M.D. Lond., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Limited. 1899.

The one hundred and eighteenth volume of the above work has been received. Although, as usual, small and unassuming, it contains within its covers a very encyclopaedia of information concerning the progress made in all branches of medicine and surgery during the past six months. Evidently believing in the coming union of all branches of the Anglo-Saxon race, articles from the pen of Broadbent, Gairdner, Mayo Robson, Woodhead, Eve, Barker, and Walsham appear side by side with those of Osler, Senn, Da Costa, Mundi, Jacobi, Tuttle, Keen, and Hammond. This being the case, it deserves increased recognition by the medical profession generally, not only on this side, but also on the other side of the Atlantic.

Growing Children: Their Clothes and Deformity. By E. Noble Smith. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1899.

In this interesting pamphlet, the author calls attention to the frequency of bodily deformity in young people, and to the
constancy with which clothes are made so that the space between the axillae is the same in front as behind, with the result that the arms are forced into a position which leads to roundness of the back and depression of the chest. He rightly emphasises the importance of developing a high chest-capacity, and he strongly recommends the use of the belt rather than of braces to sustain the nether garments. Parents and guardians would do well to look into this little work.

Health Loss and Gain: A Plea for the more Definite and Extended Practice of Preventive Medicine. By M. A. Chreiman. London: The Rebman Publishing Co., Limited. 1898.

The sub-title of this book is the objective point of the author's design, and through a couple of hundred pages he industriously pursues his theme by viewing it from a variety of standpoints. Written evidently by one whose native language is German, we discover many quaintly put, some florid, and many turgid, passages. One cannot fail to be convinced, however, of the stern earnestness of the writer, and to agree on general lines with his conclusions. He discovers the weak parts of our social economy, and agitates for a greater development of the preventive aspect of the art of medicine. The impressions left upon our mind, after carefully reading the book twice through, crystallise out as follows:—That the sole contention of the writer is that prevention is better than cure, from whatever point it may be considered; that the duty of enforcing attention to this devolves upon the members of the medical profession primarily, and upon those of the clerical profession secondarily; that greater attention to preventive medicine by individuals in its personal application would prove a great material economy in life and would produce much less misery and discomfort through illness; that, despite the advancement of preventive medicine, in its collective aspect, and of civilisation, the public has not been emancipated pari passu from ignorance of physiological facts, or from superstitious credulity, whether in the form of quackery, faith cures, or of "Christian science," and, as an instance of the former, he cites the case of a lady who asked him how he could possibly expect her to retain the services of a doctor who prescribed for "housemaid's knee" when it was not her housemaid who was suffering, but her cook.

The author himself does not seem to be guileless of fads.
"If," says he, "the members of the profession of medicine did but promote, and practically enforce, the truths connected with our one function, respiration, their work would be a priceless boon; marking, in tens of thousands of cases, veritable transformations—from incapacity to capability, from degeneration to well-being, from promise of death to newness of life." No one will gainsay the advantages of physical culture in this regard, but, we fear, it is not the panacea for all the physical ills of life.

While we believe that it is but too true that the individuals are rare who preserve their health by special attention to preventive measures, we agree with the author that it is the clear duty of the medical profession to point out how this practice on the part of individuals ought to be increased, and that from this, mutual advantage would accrue to both patient and physician. But we fear that, at present, the voice of the author is but the voice of one crying in the wilderness; at the same time, it is refreshing to read the carefully pondered views of one who holds before himself and us a high ideal in the preservation of health and prevention of disease, which, after all, is but the logical issue of all the efforts of medical science. As a last word, it may be truthfully said that, during these latter years, the medical profession has not failed to do something to point the way to the people towards this end.

Dwelling Houses: Their Sanitary Construction and Arrangements. By W. H. Corfield, M.A., M.D. Oxon., F.R.C.P. Lond. London: H. K. Lewis. 1898.

This little book of a hundred and twenty odd pages embraces the consideration of all the important principles that are involved in the sanitary construction and arrangements of houses. Although it is not intended by the author to deal exhaustively with the subject, no essential points have been overlooked. Beginning by discussing the environment, site, and construction of the house, the author proceeds to deal with the important problems of the ventilating, lighting, and warming of its apartments, its water-supply, the removal of refuse matter, and its drainage. The sanitary fittings, internal and external, receive careful handling, and the merits and demerits of the various house appliances of this kind are discriminately pointed out.

The work, which is freely illustrated, can be thoroughly recommended to all, lay and medical alike, who desire to have
a compendious and safe guide to the knowledge of all that is best regarding house construction and home hygiene.

The Anatomy of Labour as Studied in Frozen Sections. By A. H. F. Barbour. Second Edition. Edinburgh: W. & A. K. Johnston. 1899.

There is no greater authority on the anatomy of labour as studied by frozen sections than Dr. Freeland Barbour. We, therefore, have the very greatest pleasure in welcoming a second edition of this most important work of his on the subject. Dr. Barbour says in the preface that he has but little that is new to tell us, although since the first edition in 1889 twenty-five new sections have been described.

As before, the book is divided into two parts, the first being devoted to the description in greater or less detail of all sections that have been made, the second to the literature on the anatomy of labour.

The volume is a complete treatise on the subject, and it speaks very highly indeed for the care with which the earlier observations were made, when Dr. Barbour can say that “new facts learned simply support and supplement the conclusions already arrived at.”

We would recommend the volume to all interested in the subject of midwifery, for, apart altogether from its intrinsic value, which is so great, the reader cannot but be encouraged and stimulated by the careful scientific spirit that is revealed in every page.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

GYNÆCOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.

By E. H. LAWRENCE OLIPHANT, M.D.

A Pseudohermaphrodite.—Dr. Neugebauer, of Warsaw, reports the case of a woman with a rudimentary erectile organ implanted on the perineum (Centr. f. Gynæc., 4th February, 1899). Dr. Neugebauer says that he has been collecting cases of hermaphrodisim in practice and literature, but has found nothing comparable with the case about to be related. Dr. Neugebauer finds that works on malformations, misdevelopments, and so on, deny the