The Book World of Medicine and Science.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A Manual of Medical Treatment or Clinical Therapeutics. By I. Burney Yeo, M.D. (Cassell and Co., London, 1893. Two vols., 21s.)

We do not know of any book like the one at present before us, for it is really a treatise on medicine in which the greater part of the description of each disease is occupied with an account of the treatment of it.

The title,... we must confess, appears to us to be rather strange, for we fail to see how any branch of therapeutics can exist which is not clinical, and if this is so, the word clinical might be omitted. Also, the title conveys the impression that surgical treatment is not clinical therapeutics.

There are clearly two parts to be reviewed; one the therapeutic, and the other such of the account of each disease as does not deal with the treatment of it.

The therapeutic part is, on the whole, admirable, and the author is judicial in his praise of any particular mode of treatment, but much that the reader would like to know is left out. For example, in a book of this size, we should expect to find the composition of the commoner mineral waters, and fuller reference to many dietic points that are only touched upon. Much space might have been saved by omitting all description of surgical operations, then we might have had fuller information about what is commonly called "general therapeutics," and instead of numerous references to other works by Dr. Burney Yeo, we might have found valuable extracts from them.

The first part deals with the treatment of diseases of the organs of digestion, and the directions given are eminently reasonable. We agree with most of Dr. Yeo's recommendations; nevertheless, we doubt very much his statement made on page 41 that the rectum can only absorb predigested substances, for we have seen patients kept alive for weeks on nutrient enemata which were not predigested. Also we feel sure he is wrong in stating that nutrient suppositories are not absorbed. We hardly think it necessary to submit patients to the disagreeable process of washing out the stomach if they are only suffering from a mild gastric catarrh. Among his prescriptions for gastritis we do not like that on page 57, which contains subnitrate of bismuth and bichromate of sodium, for the nitric acid in the bismuth compound often liberates carbo-nic acid gas from the bicarbonate, with the result that the cork is blown out of the bottle.

Part II. contains a description of the treatment of diseases of the heart, blood-vessels, blood, and ductless glands. It struck us that here the author laid too much stress on tobacco as a cause of cardiac dilatation, and that in giving an ounce of infusion of digitals every six hours he was advising rather too large a dose. Among the many drugs recommended for the sleeplessness so often associated with heart disease, we think chloral should have been mentioned, for it is a most valuable drug.

The author's account of the treatment of gout is good, and his remarks on the "Terrain Kur" are particularly just and sensible.

Turning now to much of the first volume as does not deal with treatment, we think that it is far inferior; in fact, in many cases the teaching is in our opinion unsupported by facts, and throughout one cannot help feeling that perhaps the writer has not a wide acquaintance with appearances.

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AWARDS.

GOLD MEDAL, International Health Exhibition, London, 1894.

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British Agents for the Products of Lambert Pharmacal Co., St. Louis, U.S.
Mr. Hugh Percy Dunn pursues an interesting inquiry in the Nineteenth Century into "What London People Die Of." No one will be surprised to learn that taking the mortality rates in life in less precedence, diseases of the respiratory organs come first on the list. Chief among the victims to bronchitis and pneumonia are the little children who perish in thousands from these causes within the first five years of life. In diseases of the nervous system, which hold the second place, it is curious to see that London compares very favourably indeed with the rest of England, and the facts produced serve to demonstrate that the constant stimulus of the City life is less wearing in its effects than has generally been supposed.

In contemporary review the Spencer-cum-Weissmann controversy continues, with the very instructive result of showing "what entirely opposite conclusions men may draw from the same evidence." Labour questions absorb a large part of the number this month, which is full of thoughtful and suggestive reading. It would be difficult to lay one's hand on a more naive collection of truisms than those Dr. Robson Roose has put together for the readers of the Fortnightly Review in his article on Clothing as a Protection against Cold. "Garments made of pure silk are exceedingly comfortable but very expensive. Furs and leather are serviceable against great cold. Waterproof clothing should be reserved for very wet weather."

The source of heat is within the body itself and not in the clothes. These are some of the writer's striking discoveries. The unedited letters of Keats which Mr. Forbes Sieveking has unearthed are strangely unworthy of their late resurrection, containing every fault of his careless correspondence prose, with scarcely a glimpse of self-revelation.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

LONGLAND, GREEN, AND CO.

"The True Story Book." Edited by Andrew Lang.

"The Outdoor World; or the Young Collector's Handbook." By W. Furness, F.R.G.S.

CHATTO AND WINDUS.

"St. Katherine's Tower." By Walter Besant.

"Heather and Snow," A Novel. By George MacDonald.

"To Let." By B. M. Croker.

"Bajin, the Juggler." By G. A. Henty.

"The Master of M. Benedict's." By Allan St. Aubyn.

CASSELL AND CO.

"Little Folks," for 1893.

"Bo Peep," for 1893.

"The Quiver," for 1893.

"Lilac and Son.

"Nicola: or the Career of a Girl Musician." By M. Corbet-Saymour.

"Westward with Columbia." By Gordon Stables, M.D.

"A True Cornish Maid." By G. Norrey.

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"Our Ghosts." By Edmund Leigh.

T. Fisher Unwin.

"Wild Nature Won by Kindness." By Mrs. Brightman.

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"Rheumatism: some Investigations Respecting its Cause, Prevention and Cure." By Percy Wilde, M.D.

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