Dr. Marcet has been engaged for the last twenty years in the investigation of the phenomena of respiration, and has embodied the main results obtained in four lectures now published, together with a supplement containing accurate details of the instruments used and methods of investigation adopted, and considerations with regard to the influence of volition on respiration, the results obtained by breathing air in closed vessels, and the effects of the inhalation of atmospheric air mixed with varying quantities of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbonic acid gas.

The first lecture deals with the relations of the oxygen breathed to the life of the tissues. The manifestation of life always depends upon tissue metabolism in which oxygen plays a part. Life may be maintained in a latent form, as in seeds, for an indefinite period, so long as oxygen is present in a molecular condition in the living substance, but not entering into active combination with it. When the living tissue is active it uses up the oxygen it contains and resorts to the atmosphere for more. This chemical transformation liberates energy in the form of motion and heat. Marcet erroneously states that in cold-blooded animals the heat is entirely translated into motion, and therefore cannot be tested by a thermometer. As a matter of fact, the so-called cold-blooded animals are almost invariably warmer than the medium in which they live, and the difference in temperature can be detected by the thermometer. He shows in an interesting manner the first effect of cold in increasing the vital activity as evidenced by the increased amount of CO₂ liberated, and the subsequent hurtful results of prolonged exposure to cold. The effect of muscular exercise upon the general temperature of the body is considered, and strangely enough it seems to be demonstrated that in different persons different results are obtained; in one, the general temperature may be increased, in another lowered.
In the second lecture, after giving a brief résumé of the chief experimental investigations as to respiration during the last half century, Marcet describes the apparatus employed in his experiments, consisting essentially of an equiposed bell-jar, in which the air of respiration was collected for analysis, while by means of a stylet from the jar to a revolving cylinder he was able to obtain graphic tracings indicating the volume of air breathed. Upwards of eighty of these tracings are reproduced, and as the tracing of normal respiration is always placed beside those due to experimental variations, the eye sees at a glance the nature of the results obtained. One important principle is now stated, viz., that there is no direct connection between the CO₂ produced and the oxygen consumed. Oxygen is stored up in reserve in the blood and tissues, just as glycogen, proteid, or fat may be. Different forms of respiration are studied—(1) Automatic, in repose; (2) laboured breathing, the body being at rest; (3) breathing during muscular exercise; (4) breathing while the body is in repose but the mind actively at work towards the exercise of volition. Under the second heading we have the effects of sneezing, yawning, &c., described.

The influence of volition on respiration is discussed in the third lecture. The point specially developed in this regard is that volition without response towards any kind of muscular exercise is attended with increased pulmonary ventilation and absorption of excess of oxygen—this oxygen being necessary towards the exercise of volition, and used in the motor centres of volition. The motor centres may be surcharged with oxygen, with a corresponding development of muscular force. Volition being tired out, or, in other words, the oxygen in the motor centres being used up, the muscles refuse to work. Defective supply of oxygen, as in the air of high altitudes, causes weakening of volition, and this carried to excess gives rise to a comatose or numbed condition in which, though consciousness may be retained, the power of voluntary effort is completely abolished. Reference is made in this connection to the interesting observations of Glaisher and Paul Bert.

The influence of climbing and of respiration at high altitudes are the main subjects of the fourth lecture. Finally, the effect of inhalation of air containing various quantities of CO₂ and of re-breathing one's own expired air are studied, and the condition of the blood during coughing is examined. Asthma is seen to be aggravated by excess of CO₂ in the blood and deficiency of oxygen in the respiratory centres. The beneficial influence of respiratory exercises, and more especially of a
series of deep inspirations at the beginning of the asthmatic spasm, is examined and explained. Marcet recommends cycling exercise as especially valuable as a means of respiratory training, and if his ideas upon this point become generally known we may look for a new and alarming development of wheezing among the rising generation who feel that life without a bicycle is not worth living.

The lectures do not touch upon many problems of respiration, such as the anatomical mechanism of respiration, the innervation of respiration and the like, but so far as they go are clear, suggestive, and interesting, and well worthy of perusal by students of this important branch of physiology.

The Tallermann Treatment by Superheated Dry Air. Edited by Arthur Shadwell, M.A., M.B.Oxon., M.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1898.

In the Glasgow Medical Journal for February, 1896, we described this mode of treatment at some length, in our review of a work entitled The Tallermann-Sheffield Patent Localised Hot-Air Bath. The present volume discusses its application in cases of rheumatism, gout, rheumatic arthritis, stiff and painful joints, sprains, sciatica, and other affections. There are notes of cases, reports by medical men, and sixty-three plates, mostly to show the condition of patients before and after treatment by the Tallermann apparatus. We are glad to find such a large body of evidence in favour of the great therapeutic value of superheated dry air, and the importance of this agent, especially in the treatment of obstinate rheumatic affections, is now becoming appreciated not only in Britain, but also in France, Canada, and the States. Though the appliance has been patented by a layman, its proprietor has all along worked in co-operation with the medical profession, and not directly with the lay public. We welcome the publication of this new treatise on the subject.

A Handbook of Therapeutics. By Sidney Ringer, M.D., and Harrington Sainsbury, M.D. Thirteenth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

Nine years have elapsed since the publication of the twelfth edition. During this time many new medicines have been in
use by the physician. The book was, therefore, urgently in need of revision, if it was to maintain the good position it has so long held among the profession. We notice, with pleasure, the fact that this new edition is published under the joint authorship of Ringer and Sainsbury.

The book retains its old form, and is, as is claimed for it, essentially a book on clinical therapeutics, the medicines being dealt with from the standpoint of the practical physician. There is no detailed discussion of the pharmacological action of the drugs. While the whole book has been revised, and many changes and improvements are evident, the chief point to note is the new matter which has been added.

Among drugs we notice the addition of the following:—Chloralamide, sulphonal, trional, tetronal, agaricus, eucaine, antifebrin, exalgine, naphthalene, β naphthol, and piperazine, but there has been no attempt to include the many new drugs in the market which have yet been practically untried by the physician.

In the section describing the use of the "wet pack," we notice the reference, not found in the previous edition, to its use in cases of insomnia, and especially to the method recommended by Weir Mitchell under the name of "the drip sheet." We notice, too, the insertion of a short account of the Nauheim-Schott treatment of cardiac failure, and in reading it a very pertinent remark is worth noting, viz., "there is probably nothing mysterious in the good effects of a carefully supervised course at Nauheim, in suitable cases, if we are content with gradual improvements in pulse-rate and pulse-filling, and do not demand sudden shrinkings in heart volume and sensational cardiac diagrams." If this attitude had been more generally adopted, there would have been less disappointment experienced by those who have tried this form of treatment.

Another important addition is the section on serum-therapeutics, in which are discussed—

1. "The use of serums or extracts obtained from organs or tissues derived from the bodies of healthy animals in the treatment of diseases in which the corresponding organs or tissues are held to be at fault. The term 'isopathy' has been used to describe this method."

2. "The use of serums derived from the bodies of living animals which have been subjected to the influence of various pathologic micro-organisms or the products of their activity. Such serums are employed in the treatment of the diseases which these same micro-organisms generate when they gain access to the human body."
More advance has taken place of late in this line of therapeutics than in any other, and we have the subject fairly treated and quite in sufficient detail to indicate its value at present as a mode of treatment.

Those who have been in the habit of referring to this handbook will remember that a feature of it is the presence in the latter pages of a series of useful recipes in invalid cooking. These have been retained, but supplemented by an introduction on dietary for invalids, in which reference is made to certain systems, especially the extreme one of Dr. J. H. Salisbury, which has received some considerable support both from the profession and from the public. A section on digestive ferments has also been included in this edition.

The book is well indexed, there being both the general index and an index to diseases, with their different modes of treatment.

The book, from the addition of the new matter indicated, is increased in size by over one hundred pages.

We believe that this new edition of this popular handbook will be much appreciated by the profession.

*Human Nature: its Principles and the Principles of Physiognomy. By "Physicist."* Part I. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

It is probable that "Physicist" will rather attract the attention and secure the credit of those who are content with a superficial, than those who require a thorough method of interpreting human nature. He belongs to the class of pseudo-philosophers who, instead of studying the mind by investigating the nature of its various faculties and their manifestations, profess to tell its nature from observations on the head or face or hands, or the general morphology and physiology, adult and developmental, of the individual. This is only a less superficial way of investigating human nature than by observing the stars or chemical reactions. "Our goal," he says, "is to understand human nature. In order to know what to expect of any individual, it is necessary to be familiar with the conditions and the laws of nature which bring him into existence and assist his development." One is almost as likely "to know what to expect of any individual" from having had lessons in astronomy, as in embryology. The study of human nature is very remotely related indeed to either of these sciences. Yet it shows, as still existing, a
curious and persistent perversion of the human mind; for in all ages sciences and arts far removed from mental science and the art of foretelling events have been considered to pertain directly to, or be identical with, these. The character of an individual is manifested by certain sensible signs, and from these, deductions as to future actions may be drawn. But even one possessed of much experience and sound judgment, and having an intimate acquaintance with the individual, cannot from these data make more than a general, and can never make a special, forecast of what anyone may be expected to do. That power of choice which everyone in sound mind believes he possesses, even though the belief be merely a well-contrived delusion, as many have contended, baffles all attempts at prognostication.

But we are disappointed with "Physicist" as he proceeds, for the basis from which he reasons becomes narrower, instead of widening out. His bias is obviously due to his predilection for ancient medicine. He is a humourist-revivalist. But unfortunately for him the times show no tendency to revert to that theory. "The temperaments," he says, "are the time-honoured basis of our constitutions. They commence to be separated in the division of the blastodermic cells of the embryo into epiblast, mesoblast, and hypoplast." The variations in the relative development of the blastodermic layers determines the individual's nature as being relatively melancholic, sanguineous, or phlegmatic. The temperament of the adult is discoverable from the tint or colour of the skin. Thus, by a preordination of nature we have three primary embryonic layers, three primary temperaments, and three primary colours duly related to one another. It is from observation of these colours and their combinations that "Physicist" knows "what to expect of any individual." The coloured plate at the end of the book forms a guide or key to his system, besides forming a kind of summary.

Exercises in Practical Physiology. By Augustus D. Waller, M.D., F.R.S. Part III: Physiology of the Nervous System—Electro-Physiology. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1897.

This volume forms Part III of a series of exercises and demonstrations to accompany the author's Introduction to Human Physiology, and is primarily intended to facilitate the class-work of his laboratory. The directions given are
addressed to advanced students who have properly expended one year in the study of physiology. The student is first shown the various electro-physiological instruments, such as galvanic cells, keys, commutators, galvanometers, induction apparatus, rheostat and rheochord, and their uses carefully explained and illustrated by diagram. The action of condensers is worked out. The capillary electrometer, chronograph, and the application of photography are next explained, and the method of making electrometer records.

Having mastered the apparatus, various nerve-muscle experiments are taken up. Electrotonus is fully considered, and the conditions which influence the excitability and conductivity of nerve and muscle. The action of anaesthetics, and the electrical variations of the frog's and mammal's heart are investigated. The sounds and heat produced during muscular contraction, tendon-reflex time, and reflexes generally, and, finally, sensory reaction time, discrimination time, and volition time are fully and clearly worked out. The instruments used are of the latest type, as, for example, Pfeil's signal in taking chronographic tracings where the marker responds more readily to all rates of vibrations than in the older forms of chronograph.

The features of the book are the clearness and fulness of the directions, and the constant use of diagrams to show the grouping of apparatus in different experiments; the advanced nature of the work, and the introduction of many new experiments and methods; the excellent arrangement so that we pass in sequence from experiment to experiment as in a book of Euclid; and the frequent reference to simple experiments on man as well as on the lower animals.

There are a few slips which can be readily corrected in later editions, as when the author speaks of a vertical spot of light (p. 41), and of something being omitted for the sake of distinction (p. 59); the diagram Fig. 50 would suggest faradic instead of galvanic excitation.

On the whole the book can be cordially recommended to practical workers in physiology.

Sleep: its Physiology, Pathology, Hygiene, and Psychology. By MARIE DE MANACÉINE (St. Petersburg). Illustrated. London: Walter Scott, Limited. 1897.

This is a work which is likely to be read with much satisfaction, on account both of the instruction it conveys, and the
interest it excites. The authoress has obviously mastered her subject, and what this means may be inferred from a glance at the bibliographies which follow the four chapters into which the book is divided. The headings of these chapters are indicated in the secondary title of the work, and, after looking at the detailed table of contents, one is prepared to admit that most of the field is covered. The style is clear and agreeable, with a spice of authority in it. Many of the facts brought together are of great importance, but with regard to some assertions made by the writer we should like to reserve our judgment. Thus, she says that temporary "albuminuria is always observed in those boys or girls who, once in bed, sleep continuously till morning, not waking even to empty the bladder." The male reviewer believes he will be pardoned for inquiring whether medical studies have not a deleterious effect upon womanly character when he reads that this authoress brought about the deaths of ten puppies by depriving them of sleep for four or five days, and when she says (speaking from her own observation) that the puppy deprived of sleep for three or four days presents, as a rule, a more pitiful appearance than one which has passed ten or fifteen days without food. At the same time let all due credit be given to the writer for this admirable treatise. The work has already appeared in Russian and in French, and the English edition has been enlarged and revised by the authoress, who acknowledges her indebtedness to the editor for various additions and references. The abundant recognition given to the work of British observers is a gratifying feature of the book.

Psilosis or "Sprue:" its Nature and Treatment. By George Thin, M.D. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

Psilosis or "sprue" is a disease little familiar to physicians in this country; and to those who wish to know more of it, this new edition, containing as it does the most recent observations on the subject, cannot be otherwise than a useful and welcome publication.

Psilosis, Dr. Thin tells us, may be described as a "chronic affection of the intestine, usually associated with irregularity or looseness of the bowels, localised inflammatory lesions of tongue and the buccal mucous membrane, and with tenderness of the gullet." The author gives a detailed account of the signs and symptoms of the disease; and in an appendix there
are recorded the clinical histories of some thirty cases, which serve to amply illustrate the various points alluded to.

Treatment is dealt with in considerable detail. There are likewise chapters on the pathology and on the geographical distribution of the disease. Its relation to other forms of diarrhoea is considered, special stress being laid on the points which distinguish it from the diarrhoea alba, or "hill diarrhoea" of India.

The book is well printed and well illustrated, and we have much pleasure in recommending it to our readers.

RIngworm and Alopecia Areata: their Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By H. Aldersmith, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

This work has undergone so much enlargement and alteration since it was first reviewed in this Journal that the fourth edition calls for a separate notice. The whole pathology of ringworm has been elucidated by Sabouraud's recent discoveries of the different forms of fungi, and the papers by various authors to which they have given rise. These are very fully described and analysed in this edition, and the various forms are illustrated by a series of plates. Sabouraud's views upon alopecia areata also receive full discussion, the author's conclusion being that the micro-organisms found by him are not really the cause of the disease. He states that he has never seen any case of alopecia areata in Christ's Hospital School communicate the disease to others, and is entirely opposed to the statement of Crocker that 95 per cent of all cases of alopecia are parasitic. The rest of the volume is occupied with a discussion of the diagnosis and treatment of ringworm, on which the author's views have not undergone much alteration. The changes and additions have made the volume somewhat bulkier than is altogether convenient, but it will be found to be a very complete guide to the study of these troublesome diseases.

The Examination of the Eye. By Simeon Snell. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1898.

This is a book written for students, and we can cordially recommend it to them. It is, of course, merely introductory,
but so far as it goes it is excellent. The sections dealing with the testing of the field of fixation and with the investigation of strabismus are especially good. No adequate attempt is made to describe the various errors of refraction, but that could scarcely have been expected in a book of this size. We notice that the rotary prism first invented by Herschel and modified by Landolt for ophthalmic purposes is simply called "Risley's," and that the double prism is called "Maddox," although a perfectly similar prism has been for many years used for the purpose of measuring wave lengths. It was employed for that purpose for a very long time before the genius of Maddox applied it to the purposes of ophthalmology.

The Eye as an Aid in General Diagnosis. By E. H. Linnell, M.D. Philadelphia: The Edwards & Docker Co. 1897.

This is a very good book, and one which we can recommend. It is not so full or exhaustive as the volume by Max Knics on the same subject, but it certainly contains a large amount of most useful and well-arranged information. It might perhaps have been more freely illustrated, and more details should have been given as to methods of examination and as to the instruments employed.

The volume, however, contains a clear statement of the lesions of the eye which are found in association with the various diseases of the body, and forms a reliable guide to the subject.

Practical Handbook of the Diseases of the Eye. By D. Chalmers Watson, M.B., C.M. With Nine Coloured Plates and Twenty-four Illustrations in the Text. Edinburgh: William F. Clay. 1897.

This little volume is designed for the use of students, and is based, the author says, on the teaching of Dr. Argyll Robertson. Without concurring in everything it says or omits to say, we quite recognise that the work does credit to the writer, and we are prepared to learn that the arrangement and quality both of the text and of the illustrations will render it helpful to those for whom it is intended.
Nettleship's Diseases of the Eye: a Manual for Students. Sixth Edition. Revised and Edited by W. T. Holmes Spicer, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

The fact that the reputations both of Dr. Nettleship and of his Manual are already long established makes it needless to do more than mention the appearance of this new edition. Mr. Holmes Spicer is responsible for everything in which it differs from its predecessor, and a short examination of the work satisfies us that it deserves to retain its position as one of the best available text-books of ophthalmology.

The Diseases of the Nervous System: a Handbook for Students and Practitioners. By Charles E. Beevor, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1898.

We have great pleasure in very cordially recommending this book as a handy and reliable manual for the study of diseases of the nervous system. It has been written by an observer who is well known as an original worker at the subjects on which he has written, and the volume is remarkable for the conciseness and lucidity of its style throughout. The chapters on General Anatomy and on Case-Taking are especially good, and the descriptions of the various morbid conditions are clear and accurate. We wish the book every success.

The Diagnosis of the Nature of Organic Brain Disease. By Sir Wm. R. Gowers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Vol. I. London: Sir I. Pitman & Sons, Limited. 1897.

The Society of Medical Phonographers, which originated a few years ago, has a vigorous vitality. In addition to publishing a monthly journal, The Phonographic Record of Clinical Teaching and Medical Science, the Society has aspirations towards founding a library of medical works printed in shorthand. Sir Wm. Gowers, the author of the present volume, is President of the Society, and an enthusiastic shorthand writer.
We heartily commend this work to those of our readers who write shorthand (Pitman's system). It is beautifully written in easy "corresponding" style.

We understand this volume is the first of a series from Sir Wm. Gowers. We look forward with pleasure to a perusal of the others.

_Sickroom Cookery and Hospital Diet, with Special Recipes for Convalescent and Diabetic Patients._ By Maude Earle. With Notes on the Feeding of Infants, by Frank C. Madden, F.R.C.S. London: Spottiswoode & Co. 1897.

Written by a staff teacher of the National Training School of Cookery in London, aided by the superintendent of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, this book is sure to be of use to all engaged in preparing food for the sick. The recipes constitute the chief value of the book—they are very numerous, and the directions are given in plain, simple language. We recommend the book.

_Introduction to Chemical Methods of Clinical Diagnosis._

By Dr. H. Tappeiner. Translated from the Sixth German Edition, with an Appendix on Micro-Biological Methods of Diagnosis, by Edmond J. M'Weeny, M.A., M.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1898.

Professor M'Weeny is to be congratulated upon his successful translation of Tappeiner's work, and also upon the very useful appendix from his own pen. We have looked through the book, and feel quite sure that it will prove of great service both in the ward and the laboratory.

_The Year-Book of Treatment for 1898: a Critical Review for Practitioners of Medicine and Surgery._ London: Cassell & Co., Limited.

This is the fourteenth annual issue of this excellent handbook, and in all respects it seems to come up to the standard of previous years. The attempt to put before the busy physician
a readable digest of all the important advances made in therapeutics during the past year appears to have been highly successful.

The contributors, who number twenty-six in all, are men well known in special departments; among these the names of Dr. G. A. Gibson, lecturer in the Edinburgh School of Medicine, and Dr. Herbert P. Hawkins, physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, London, appear for the first time. The former has dealt with the section pertaining to the treatment of diseases of the heart and circulation; the latter with diseases of the stomach, intestines, and liver. We are sure that this issue will meet with the same approval as those of former years.

Edinburgh Hospital Reports. Edited by G. A. Gibson, M.D., D.Sc.; C. W. Cathcart, M.A., M.B.; John Thomson, M.D.; D. Berry Hart, M.D. Vol. V. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1898.

This fifth volume of the Edinburgh Hospital Reports, in its scope and in the nature and merit of its articles, resembles very closely its four predecessors. It differs from them, however, in regard to bulk, for the present issue contains but four hundred pages in place of six hundred pages in previous years. We notice, also, that eighteen months have elapsed since the publication of the fourth volume. Surely this does not mean a falling off in interest of the Edinburgh medical school for its annual "reports?"

Be this as it may, we have here before us a collection of most interesting articles, and of these none are more so than that by Dr. Bramwell on "Abscess of the Brain," and than the one on "Cerebellar Disease" by Sir Grainger Stewart and Dr. G. A. Gibson. The latter is specially good, for along with its record of five cases, it gives as clear and complete an account of the signs and symptoms of disorders of the cerebellum as can be found anywhere.

The "Case of Gall-stones in a New-born Infant," reported by Dr. John Thomson, is also a valuable contribution to medical literature. But a fuller description of the histological appearances in the liver would have added to it value—e.g., in respect to blocking of the capillary bile-ducts, as showing an irritating and viscid condition of the bile.

Dr. Greig's paper on "Unilateral Hypertrophy," with its table of published cases, must be read by those interested in
the subject. His theory as to the causation of the conditions he describes is also a welcome addition to a somewhat obscure subject.

Dr. Fleming has written "Notes on Peripheral Neuritis." His observations as to recovery of the ganglion cell after section of its nerve fibre is of interest in view of the fact that Dr. Ballet found complete atrophy in the cell after such section of its nerve. We must likewise mention an excellent article on the "Histology and Pathology of the Neuroglia," by Dr. W. F. Robertson.

Dr. Christian Simpson has a paper on "Intravascular Coagulation," which contains many useful observations. But is it the case that the uric acid in the blood is derived from the general tissue waste? Is it not now held that the uric acid found in the blood comes from the destruction of white blood corpuscles?

There are many other papers to which we might refer if space would permit, but the foregoing must suffice.

The volume, like the four previous ones, is well printed, well illustrated, well bound; and it cannot but prove, in every respect, a most useful addition to the medical literature of our country.

Saint Thomas's Hospital Reports. New Series. Vol. XXV. Edited by DR. HECTOR C. MACKENZIE and MR. G. H. MAKINS. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

The papers in the present issue call for no special comment. It may be noticed, however, that an "X-Ray" department has been added to the Hospital, a note on the establishment of which has been contributed by A. Barry Blacker, M.D.

Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army. Authors and Subjects. Second Series. Vol. II: B—Bywater. Washington, 1897.

We have much pleasure in noticing the continuation of this important work, which keeps up the reputation of the first series. This volume is issued by D. L. Huntingdon, Deputy Surgeon-General and Lieutenant-Colonel, U.S. Army.

It has often been noticed that the subject-catalogue of a medical library undergoes remarkable changes, within even a
limited number of years, as regards the subjects which practically drop out, and more particularly as regards the subjects which are taken up in the course of time. The present volume covers the letter B, and it is interesting to compare some entries in this volume (1897) with the same letter of the first series in the volumes issued in 1880 and 1881. "Bacteria," then occupied two pages; now, with allied entries of "Bacteriology" and "Bacterio-therapy," we have no less than thirty-two pages of titles of books and papers! "Brain-Surgery," which did not exist as entry in 1881, has now ten pages of titles under it. Under "Blood," we have also some notable changes, particularly "Blood: Spectroscopy of, Semeilology of, Specific Gravity of," appear for the first time as headings; and "Serum of," appearing for the first time, occupies two pages for its entries.

Such a comparison shows the changes occurring in medical literature in sixteen or seventeen years.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

By R. BARCLAY NESS, M.A., M.B., C.M.

Acetate of Thallium in the Treatment of the Night Sweats of Phthisis.—The toxic and physiological properties of the salts of thallium have already been the subject of investigation, and in 1884 Pozzi and Courtade proposed that they should be used in the treatment of syphilis. Lately M. Combemale (of Lille) made a communication to the Academy of Medicine with regard to the efficacy of acetate of thallium as an anhidrotic. He found it of chief service in checking the profuse perspirations of phthisical patients, although he found it also of some advantage in other cases not of a tubercular character.

It was administered in the form of pilules, each containing 10 centigrammes, and this was usually the dose for one day; very rarely were 20 centigrammes given. It was found expedient never to prescribe it more than four days in succession, because the effects were very persistent, sometimes continuing as long as from eight to ten days. The drug should be administered about an hour before the time perspiration usually occurs.

Its administration was never accompanied by any toxic symptoms, a fact worthy of note when we consider the poisonous character of the metal, and how it has been shown experimentally to act as a paralyser of muscle. It should, however, be noted that in three cases a loss of hair occurred, which became complete in two to eight days. These patients received from 80 centigrammes to 110 centigrammes during the course of treatment; but in the