Part Second.

REVIEWS.

Surgical Inquiries: A Presidential Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, 24th June 1874. By Furneaux Jordan, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Professor of Surgery at the Queen's College. London: J. and A. Churchill: 1874.

We know of no surgical writer at the present day whose communications are more thoroughly replete with originality than those of the gentleman whose name appears as the author of the present brochure. Thrown together as its elements have been in the leisure of active professional occupation, they present as great diversity of subject and treatment as could well be imagined; but with this much in common that through them all there is the same token of genius in every conception and in every suggestion.

That the subjects of observation and remark are sufficiently varied the following list will abundantly prove:—

"Cellular Pathology; Skin Grafting; Continuity in Pathological processes; Continuity in Pathological action in the implication of tissues; Syphilis; Gonorrhoea of the Umbilicus; Struma; Shock; Wens; Unusual Abscesses; The treatment of Inflammation; Case of Enucleation of Myeloid Tumour of the Lower Jaw; Diseases of Joints; Excision of the Knee; A mode of Amputating at the Knee-joint; Spinal Caries; Proposed operation in hopeless cases of Spinal Caries; On the Evacuation of Faeces and Retention of Urine in Cerebro-spinal Lesions; An operation for Naevus of the Face; Naevus Hypertrophies; Naevus of Bone; Proposal for the treatment of internal Aneurism; Bubo within the Abdomen; Irregular Distribution of the Lymphatics; On Ligature of the Common Carotid in Rupture of the Middle Meningeal Artery; On the origin and treatment of Bronchocele; Case of remarkable Thyroid Cyst; A method of removing the Tongue; A method of restoring the Entire Lip, upper or lower; A proposal for the radical cure of Hernia; A simple extraperitoneal operation in Strangulated Hernia; An operation for Stricture of the Rectum; A simple plug for Rectal Hæmorrhage; An operation for Phymosis; The results of congenitally small Meatus Urinarius in the male; An operation for the treatment of impassible Stricture and Retention of Urine; The treatment of Vesical Calculus in the female; Sounding for Vesical Calculus with a long needle in Traumatic Stricture; Inflammation extending from the Epididymis to the
Urethra; The radical cure of Encysted Hydrocele of the Cord; The operative treatment of Cystocele and Rectocele; The incisions in removing Cancer of the Breast.

Not only are the subjects varied, but each almost has its illustrative diagram, by which the book is rendered strikingly demonstrative.

Such a rich mine of rare gems, each one coruscating with the practical genius of the writer, evinced in the ingenious speculations which have occurred in connexion with common enough facts certainly, but facts which, from their very plainness and everyday occurrence, might at first sight seem hardly to merit the notice of one who has penetrated deeply into the very arcana of surgical art and science, may well encourage every one to look around him, and to watch the strange combinations, the anomalous progress, and the incalculable results which may be observed to be inherent even in the simplest object of professional study.

No work of like bulk and so unpretentious an exterior will be found more thoroughly to repay, even to the very busy practitioner, the time expended upon its careful and thoughtful consideration.

We wish this work all success, and feel assured we will receive the grateful thanks of every reader for directing his attention to this writer, and to all his publications.

Etudes d'Histologie Pathologique dans la Folie Simple. Par M. le Dr Auguste Voisin, Médecin à la Salpêtrière. Bordeaux.

Manual of Lunacy: A Handbook relating to the Legal Care and Treatment of the Insane in the Public and Private Asylums of Great Britain, Ireland, United States of America, and the Continent. By Littleton S. Winslow, M.B. & M.L. Cantab., M.R.C.P. Lond., D.C.L. Oxon. London: 1874.

Insanity in its Relations to Crime. By William A. Hammond, M.D. New York: 1873.

The Chicago Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases. Edited by J. S. Jewell, M.D., etc., and H. M. Banister, M.D. January 1874, No. 1. Chicago, London, and Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate.

Maclachlan and Stewart's Pathological Charts. No. 1. The Brain.

In this short pamphlet, the distinguished author, Dr Voisin, gives some of the results of his observations on cases of insanity examined by him after death. He seeks for the primary lesion in alteration of the vessels of the nervous centres, and he observes that he has never yet made an autopsy of an uncomplicated case of insanity
without meeting with morbid alterations in the vessels, if the disease had gone on for three months. Dr Voisin treats the alterations in the nervous tissue as following those of the vessels, at least in this form of insanity. "There is," he writes, "at first dyscrasia, then diminution, then suppression of the nutrition of the cells, and at last a true gangrene of the nervous tissues. In the end, we have a real necrosis of the cerebral nerve-cell. It loses its colour and shape, contracts, and becomes isolated, a true foreign body in the nervous substance." The history and post-mortem examinations of six cases are given with masterly brevity, and illustrated by two pages of engravings. The pamphlet is reprinted from the Transactions of the French Association for the Advancement of the Sciences, held at Bordeaux in 1872.

Dr Lyttleton Winslow's Manual of Lunacy is a useful book, where medical men who have to do with the subject may find many things easily which would cost them much pains to find elsewhere. At the same time, we do not see how the claim can be fairly made, as stated in the preface, that it "fills a gap in medical literature," as no medical practitioner can now plead ignorance of the law as regards lunacy. The law of lunacy as regards medical men is very clearly laid down in the handbook of Sabben and Browne, published no later than 1872, which is too good a book to be thus ignored. Dr Lyttleton Winslow, who is a son of the late Forbes Winslow, well known by his learned works on insanity, begins by giving a short history of lunacy legislation, and then describes the present state of lunatics in England and the laws relating to them. We have then chapters on lunacy in Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, America, and Russia. These are full of special and interesting information. The author asks his readers to point out any errors or omissions with a view to the correction of future editions. We cannot say that we have noticed any, save that the Roxburgh and Berwick Asylum, stated in the book to be at Milholme House, Musselburgh, was shifted in the summer of 1872 to the new Asylum at Melrose.

In reference to the history of lunatic asylums, if Dr Winslow will consult the memoirs of Bulstrophe Whetelocke, the celebrated statesman in the time of the Commonwealth, written by Professor Whetelocke, he will find that during the reign of Charles I., there was a private asylum in England, kept by a doctor, where Whetelocke put his first wife, who was afflicted with epileptic mania.

The name of Dr Hammond is sufficient to call attention to his little treatise on Insanity in its Relation to Crime, though the learned Professor has, in imitation of the Germans, added a long list of the honorary titles he has gained, which are arranged by the printer in the form of a saucer on the titlepage of the work.
Dr Hammond gives a number of striking cases, principally from French sources, most of which have already done service in essays on similar subjects. The reader will readily forgive us if we do not launch into the interminable subject of insanity in its relation to crime—a subject on which medical men have in our opinion written a good deal of nonsense. Dr Hammond is far from wishing to plead cerebral disease as a bar to punishment for crime. He takes, indeed, the opposite side, and his little book is well worthy of being read by those who imagine that a knowledge of pathology, or an acquaintance with the symptoms of insanity, entitle them to propose changes in the law. "With all our care," he remarks in a closing sentence, "injustice to some extent will attend on every legal process, and the attempt by man to reconcile the principles of abstract right with the customs, the obligations, and the necessities of society, will always be a vain effort."

The Chicago Journal contains a very good résumé of what has been recently done to throw light upon the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the nervous system all over the world. If the succeeding numbers be as good as the first, this new quarterly deserves hearty support. It is amazing to see, coming from a new town in America, half of which was lately burned down, so matured and scholarly a retrospect of papers, published in every language used by civilized nations, and collected from hundreds of periodicals.

Maclachlan's Charts are taken from Quain's Anatomy and Turner's paper on the Convolutions of the Human Cerebrum. The engravings are twenty-six in number, and are meant to represent all the different aspects in which the brain and its parts may be viewed anatomically, but there is no engraving of the convolutions of the brain overlying the cerebellum, which, nevertheless, are not unfrequently diseased. If, in a section, a lesion difficult to describe is found, the appearance may be readily indicated by different colours on the corresponding diagram on the chart, which may be had for sixpence. We believe this plan has been long used by Dr J. C. Howden of Montrose Asylum, who with Dr J. B. Tuke has taken the trouble to edit this useful paper.

Contributions to Practical Surgery. By Geo. W. Norris, M.D., late Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, etc. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston: 1873.

Dr Norris has collected in this volume his surgical essays which originally appeared some years ago in the American Journal of the
Medical Sciences. The objection to the work is, that in many particulars it is not up to date. The value of the work consists in the carefully-prepared statistical tables on the results of operations on the larger arteries, drawn from all sources, and the tabulated results of the fractures and dislocations admitted to the Pennsylvania from 1830 to 1850. Statistics are also given of the cases of amputation in the same hospital from 1850 to 1860. These latter will always be of value, and we think that Dr Norris has done well to publish them in this collected form. A paper on Compound Fractures has been added, which, as far as we can gather from the preface, has never been published before. It surely cannot have been written last year, because the antiseptic treatment of these cases is not even referred to. Water-dressing and poultices seem to be the perfection of treatment in Dr Norris's opinion. The statistical tables and historical references are the valuable parts of this book, and as a book of reference we recommend it to students of surgery.

Papers on Leprosy, read before the Grant Medical College Society. By J. C. Lisboa, Graduate of Grant Medical College. Bombay: 1874.

Report on Leprosy and Leper Asylums in Norway. By Henry Vandyke Carter, M.D. Lond.; Surgeon-Major H.M.'s Bombay Army. Presented to the Secretary of State for India in Council, November 1873. London: 1874.

These works on leprosy, for which I am indebted to the kind courtesy of the authors, suggest the following brief remarks:—

About the year 1850, the researches of Drs Danielssen and Boek on leprosy in Norway became known to the profession in India. At that time I was teaching medicine in Bombay, and daily visiting the leper ward in my hospital.

Conscious that an advantageous field for the clinical study of leprosy had been disregarded by me, and that for various reasons there was little prospect of my being able to turn it to good account, I proposed to Mr Lisboa, at the time attached to the hospital, that he should take charge of the leper ward and engage in the investigation of the disease. In February 1852, Mr Lisboa read his "Observations on Leprosy" before the Grant College Medical Society; and a full abstract of the paper was published in 1854; from which nine of the illustrative cases were quoted by me in the first edition of my "Clinical Researches." Mr Lisboa has now published in a separate form a complete edition of

1 Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Bombay for the year 1854. No. II., New Series, p. 290.