Clinical Lectures on Subjects Connected with Medicine and Surgery. By various German Authors. Third Series. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1894.

The lectures contained in this volume, eleven in number, are chiefly medical. The first contribution is one by Billroth on the mutual action of vegetable and animal cells. He discusses here the effects of the action of microbes upon animal tissues, resulting either in destruction or in new-formation. The nature of the formative stimulus, and the effects of formative irritation, receive special attention, and in the development of the subject he embodies his views upon heredity. He then passes to the action of animal upon vegetable cells, in which connection his remarks upon the formation of galls are of much interest. The lecture has suffered somewhat through being translated by a German. The sentences are often lengthy and involved, and the English is sometimes definitely bad. There are three lectures by von Ziemssen, on neurasthenia and its treatment, on the causes of tuberculosis, and on syphilis of the nervous system, of which the first and the last are perhaps the most important. He lays special stress upon the necessity for isolation in severe cases of neurasthenia. The lecture upon syphilis is illustrated by a very interesting series of cases, in one of which the retinal arteries, at first thickened, and with the double contour obliterated, were observed from day to day in their progress to recovery under mercury and iodide. He considers that "the condition of the retinal artery should receive special attention throughout the whole course of the disease." Two lectures by Alexander Peyer on "Asthma Sexualis" and "Severe Enuresis Nocturna in Males," are allied to each other, inasmuch as he finds posterior urethritis and masturbation to be the chief causes of both. The diseases yield, as a rule, to local treatment. It is of importance, in his view, to inquire into the condition of the generative organs in all cases of asthma where no other cause is apparent. This applies to females as well as males. Salzer's lecture on the healing in of foreign bodies is interesting. He gives an historical résumé of the subject, and adds cases of his own. He finds that they become surrounded by a very resistant cicatrix, the internal layers of which are more vascular than the outer, or that they become encysted, and from the results of his experiments he suggests the insertion of glass-wool, in cases of the radical cure of hernia, to produce a tough cicatrix. In one case this was so far successful, but the patient was lost
sight of. Erb lectures on progressive muscular dystrophy, a
term under which he proposes to group the diseases hitherto
known as pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis, infantile and juvenile
muscular atrophy, finding them all associated with similar
changes in the muscles and an intact condition of the cord.
Löwenfeld discusses the advance in the treatment of chronic
disease of the cord, in which he lays great stress upon the
careful employment of hydrotherapy. Strümpell, also, lectures
upon traumatic neuroses, railway spine, &c., dividing them
into general and local, the latter being of an hysterical nature,
the former calling for a very guarded prognosis, and being
not infrequently associated with organic traumatic lesions.
Finally, Hofmeister has an excellent lecture on diabetes
mellitus.

The book is thus one of varied contents, in which every one
will find something of interest. If one were to single out any
part of it for special praise, it would be the lectures dealing
with the diseases of the nervous system.

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Materia Medica, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics—Inorganic
Substances. By CHAS. D. F. PHILLIPS, M.D. Second Edition.
London: J. & A. Churchill. 1894.

We can confidently recommend this book to the practitioner
who wishes to refresh his memory concerning the physiological
action of remedies, as well as to get some guidance in their
practical administration. The sections dealing with treatment
are well up to date, and the author states the result of his
own experience, and also discusses the methods of other
authorities. The volume is a most readable one. It displays
throughout great clearness of statement in the discussion of
pharmacological theories, and is singularly accurate and com-
plete in detail.

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Cancer and its Complications. By CHARLES EGERTON
JENNINGS, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S. Eng. Second Edition. Lon-
don: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1893.

The first edition of this work was reviewed in the Glasgow
Medical Journal of March, 1890, and as there has been no
material alteration in the second edition, beyond that of a
wise reduction in price, we feel it somewhat superfluous to
re-review the volume. The author seeks to elucidate the
undernoted points, and attains his object, so far, with much