depletion, and that the quiet which succeeded it was that of exhaustion as much as of mitigated suffering. If so, the returning restlessness would probably be the index of the feeble power of the brain, no longer adequate to the performance of its wonted functions, rather than the evidence of active disease of the organ. Nor would the history be the only safeguard from error, but the fontanelle, sunk below the level of the cranial bones, instead of being tense and pulsating, the cool surface, and the pulse presenting no other characters than those of frequency and feebleness, would all point to the real nature of the case. You do not need to be told that to deplete under such circumstances would be to destroy your patient—that food is needed, not physic. The sunken powers of life are to be rallied, and as their strength returns the functions of the brain will again go on harmoniously.”—P. 108.

With the subject of Tubercle, Dr West closes his discussion of the affections more strictly connected with the brain. Of this not uncommon disease he gives an excellent pathological account, but does not furnish us with an easier diagnosis, or hold out better prospects of effecting a cure, than those who have preceded him.

(To be continued.)

A. P.

Elements of Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical. By Sir Robert Kane, M.D., M.R.I.A. Second Edition.

The students of no science are better provided than those of chemistry with text-books, suitable for pupils at all stages of progress. So good, indeed, are the majority of the current treatises on chemistry, that a beginner may safely indulge his taste in selecting a text-book, without fear of purchasing a useless volume.

Sir R. Kane's work is deservedly a great favourite with students, and this not only in Great Britain but in the United States, where it has been generally adopted by the colleges as their text-book. He has avoided the error into which many authors of text-books fall, of making their volumes exhaustive discussions of the science they expound. Our authorities in chemistry have persisted longer in this mistake than the preceptors of any other department of knowledge. No naturalist insists on discussing, in an elementary book, every species of every genus, but deliberately and of set purpose discusses only the more important species of the more important genera. The chemist, however, still makes the vain attempt to include the rarest chemical compounds in his elementary treatises, and endeavours to comprehend in his discussion all the members of groups comprising substances exceedingly like each other in every property. Such a group, for example, we have in the compounds of Ethyle, or Ethers.

For the majority of students, a knowledge of the method of preparing and purifying some three or four of the ethers would suffice, and it would enable them at any time to extend their acquaintance with this class of bodies indefinitely. But it only distracts or disheartens the beginner, to present to him twelve or twenty compounds
as equally deserving his study, of which only five or six are so much as to be seen in university museums, and these only as scaled specimens, too precious to be spent on experiments. It is high time that our academical preceptors should either justify the titles of their works, which are styled "Elements of Chemistry," by making them elementary; or give them new titles more expressive of their true character. As it is, some of them have been commenced as Students' Manuals, and have perhaps been such in their earlier editions, but their later issues insensibly departing from their original scheme, and endeavouring to keep pace with the progress of a science which only periodicals frequently published can overtake, have ended in realising neither the idea of a good text-book nor that of a Cyclopedia or Dictionary of Chemistry. They are supplanted as text-books by such works as Professor Fownes' Manual; and as cyclopædias by such productions as "Gmelin's Hand-book."

Sir R. Kane's work is happily free from such faults as we have been condemning. Written for students, it avoids systematically all the minor details, and isolated or less interesting departments of chemistry. A broad, bold outline-sketch is given of all the great laws, doctrines, and problems of the science. The outline is filled in, more or less completely, as the object of the sketch is related to settled and important sections of physics, or belongs to still doubtful, purely theoretical, or merely curious, objects of chemical investigation. The style is graphic and clear, the illustrations well chosen, and the work, as all text-books for students should be, eclectic in its character, and discriminating in its judgment. Sir R. Kane, too, we need not tell our readers, is not a mere judicious compiler, or condenser of other men's thoughts and speculations. He is esteemed wherever chemistry is cultivated, as an original observer and independent thinker, whose criticisms on disputed questions in his science are always worth listening to, and often decisive of the merits of the case under discussion.

The progress of chemistry has been such, within the last ten years, that we cannot expect any single volume to prove sufficient for even the briefest consideration of its triumphs. Upon the whole, Sir R. Kane has judiciously followed the march of his science since the first edition of his work, although we cannot say that all the departments of chemistry are equally represented in his notices of new discoveries. We had marked several examples of what seemed to us disproportional discussion of improvements in some branches of the science, and neglect of advances in others; we omit these, however, as we are more anxious to point out the great merits, than the few defects, of an excellent work. We notice, accordingly, only one of the latter. The first edition of Sir R. Kane's "Elements" contained by far the best account which had then appeared of crystallography, discussed in a mode suitable for general students. We do not find, however, that the second edition represents the present state of crystallography, or takes advantage of the changes in nomenclature, and alterations
of views, which have taken place within the last very few years. Sir R., ex. gr., still describes the rhomboidal system as possessed of four axes, although this mode of representation, which has been styled by an eminent Cambridge professor "a geometrical absurdity," is now abandoned, and all the crystalline systems are represented as possessing each only three axes.

We willingly, however, resume commendation. We possess at present no work which can come into competition with the one we have been reviewing as an ample, judicious, and independent summary of the progress of chemistry during the last ten years. As such, we recommend it to all interested in that science who are still willing, whatever amount of progress they may have made in it, to be styled students.

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A Practical Treatise on Morbus Coxarius. By William C. Hugman, Surgeon to the Verral Institution for the Treatment of Spinal Disease and Distortion, &c. Pp. 81. London: 1849.

After giving an outline of the symptoms and progress of this disease, and a rather interesting account of its pathology, the author, under the head of "Treatment," confines his observations to the mechanical management. The principal object of the treatise is the recommendation of the prone position for preventing the drawing up and shortening of the limb which occur in the advanced stages,—the method being an improvement on that "originally employed by the late Dr Verral in the treatment of vertebral disease and distortion." The author is of opinion, after having enjoyed "unusual opportunities" of making himself acquainted with the disease, that in its advanced stages, when "the position of the limb becomes one of the most important considerations in the treatment," all the plans of mechanical management hitherto proposed, including the use of the long splint, "have proved useless, or nearly so, from the simple fact that they can seldom be borne." This observation, however, does not apply to the use of the long splint in the early stage of the disease, by which perfect rest is secured, and drawing up of the limb prevented. The "prone couch" recommended by the author is a very simple one. It consists of a horizontal board, two feet in breadth, and of the length of the patient's trunk, supported in front at a height of from two to three feet, and behind by another and longer board which slopes gradually to the ground, on which it rests; and on these a hair mattress is laid. The horizontal part supports the trunk, the chest being slightly raised; the lower extremities rest on the depending part, a cushion being placed below the ankles; and the angle between the two planes corresponds to the front of the hip joints. In regard to the apparent awkwardness of this position, the author alludes to the fact that, in the advanced stage, there is always a
tendency to assume the prone position in bed, in order to take the pressure off the affected hip; and the apparent objection, that "the play of the ribs and abdominal and thoracic muscles is restricted," is met by the remark, that the author, after eight years' experience, has "never known it produce such effects, or it would long ago have been abandoned." On the contrary, it would appear, from the author's observations and cases, that after the position has been maintained for a few hours, it becomes an extremely easy one, and is much preferred to any other by the patients; who are described as having been able variously to engage in reading, drawing, sewing, and even in practising on the piano. The advantages attributed to this position, in addition to the relief it affords, are, that it does not admit of contraction or shortening of the limb taking place; the joint is kept at rest in a partially flexed condition, by which more especially the psoas and iliacus and rectus muscles are relaxed, and all pressure is removed from the affected part; and facility is afforded for the application of any topical remedy that may be required. This position has been also found very advantageous in cases where there was sloughing of the back or nates, from long-continued pressure on these parts in the supine position; and it will prove no doubt a useful expedient when there is a tendency to that occurrence in any case in which there has been long confinement to bed.

If the limb is already shortened, unless there is contra-indication from the condition of the affected parts, extension may be gradually made by a simple contrivance appended to the couch, and cases are given from the journals of the institution in which several inches of shortening—arising from pelvic obliquity, accompanied by corresponding spiral curvature—existed, in which the use of the extension apparatus restored, without pain or difficulty, the limb to its natural figure and length. Many such cases of distortion from this disease are said to apply at the Verral Institution, having been elsewhere informed that their cases admitted of no farther relief; of some of these a permanent cure has been effected, and a great number have been much relieved.

Mr Hugman has also given a translation of some observations and experiments recently made by several continental surgeons on this subject, of which those of Heine, on the reduction of the bone in several cases in which the disease had ceased, on the occurrence of spontaneous luxation, are more especially interesting; but for farther information, we must refer to the treatise itself, which is deserving of perusal, and is in every way creditable to the author.
A Manual of Botany; being an Introduction to the Study of the Structure, Physiology, and Classification of Plants. By John Hutton Balfour, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c., Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh. 12mo, pp. 641. London: 1849.

Professor Balfour is well known as a pre-eminently zealous and successful teacher of botany, and the work before us, which he has just published on that science, will not fail to confirm and extend the reputation which he has always possessed. It is a comprehensive manual of botany, giving a condensed view of all the departments of the science. It forms an introduction to the study of the structure, physiology, and classification of plants. Besides the usual subjects treated of in the introductions and manuals put into the hands of students, it embraces the application of vegetable physiology to agriculture, as regards the cultivation of plants and their diseases; the properties of plants in a medical and economical point of view; an account of the geographical distribution of plants; and a short sketch of fossil botany. We highly approve of our author's plan in thus presenting to the student, in one view, and in a simple volume, an outline of all the subjects which botany, taken in its largest sense, comprehends. We here speak chiefly with reference to the wants of the student of medicine. Botany is not one of the essential subjects of his studies. He must be allowed, when he has no particular turn towards botany, to content himself with the most general views of the science. We are far from thinking that botany should be excluded from the circle of medical studies; but we cannot admit that it should receive the same importance as anatomy, physiology, and chemistry. When we look to the history of botany during the last hundred years, we may remark that the most important additions to our knowledge of the flora of distant countries have been made by medical practitioners visiting those countries, though possessed of but slender attainments in botanical science. And while it is plainly impossible that any large proportion of medical men should be profoundly versed in botany, we cannot but insist that any discouragement in the medical profession of such slender attainments as are here referred to, would prove detrimental to the progress of botany, as far as concerns the knowledge of the vegetable productions of remote countries. We have made these remarks, because we think there has been a growing disposition of late among some of our most eminent authors of elementary treatises on botany, to repel from taking part in the cultivation of that subject, all who are not disposed to make it the chief business of their lives. We think Professor Balfour's work eminently calculated to counteract the influence of this exclusive spirit,—it is well fitted to be the first treatise put into the hands of the student, because if he has any turn for the study of nature at all—and no student of medicine should be destitute of such a faculty—he will be sure to find
Some topic to interest his curiosity, even though he may not be able at once to summon up the resolution necessary to encounter the details of minute structure, or the puzzling grounds of affinity in natural families.

But our readers must not misunderstand us so far as to suppose that we wish to represent our author's work as a superficial treatise. On the contrary, it contains everywhere the most exact views on the several subjects of which it treats—those sanctioned by the highest and most recent authorities. And as the newest book on a subject advancing at present with unusual rapidity, it commands the signal advantage of giving the anatomical description of plants, hitherto so difficult a branch of the study, all the precision derivable from the latest important discoveries in structure and function. Every one conversant with the elementary works on botany, which have come into use within the last twenty or thirty years, must have remarked with delight how easy it becomes, as the knowledge of structure and function advances, to apprehend descriptions of parts which were before perplexing and almost unintelligible. And on this account we cannot but condemn the attempts so often made at the instigation of publishers, to retain in use the older text-books on elementary botany, by the help of new editions, furnished with notes and corrections. A book of this kind, composed at a time when extensively applicable principles of structure and function were imperfectly, or not at all, understood, cannot but embarrass the learner often in the most difficult part of his task, and is of no farther use but to supply materials for the history of the science.

We should add, that the work is abundantly illustrated by woodcuts, namely, those employed in Jussieu's "Cours Elementaire," some from Beudant's Geology, and others from Raspail, St Hilaire, Schleiden, Amici, and Maout. There is also an appendix, containing a short view of the use of the microscope in botanical researches, and directions for collecting and examining plants, and on the formation of a herbarium.

A Physician's Holiday, or a Month in Switzerland in the Summer of 1848. By J. Forbes, M.D. London, 1849. 8vo. pp. xii., 520.

Few men living have done so much for their profession, and that so well, as the "healthy Sexagenarian" whose pleasant book we have just finished. It would give us great pleasure to make good this assertion; but this is not our immediate object, and deserves, moreover, ampler and different treatment than is now in our power;—and besides, our readers will find, under Medical News, in the account of the presentation of his testimonial to Dr Forbes, many things which we might have said, and in which we cordially concur. Our object now, is to recommend the "Physician's Holi-
day," as a vigorous, pleasant, and informing book, having all its excellent author's well known characteristics, and now and then some things, it may be not better, but more subtle and delicate,—more "informed with phantasy,"—than we had given him credit for. But we beg to send our friends to the Month's Holiday itself. It would have been very pleasant to have given some extracts from his introduction, in which there is a lively account of the various forms of the London Doctor's Holiday; this one, for instance, is droll enough:—

"A philosophical friend, whose active brain will not allow him to desert his books and his apparatus, even for the woods and fields which he loves so much, takes his holiday sometimes in quite a different style: he sends his horses to grass, shuts up his front-windows, retires to his library in the rear, and leaves strict injunctions with the footman to inform all inquirers, patients especially, that he has gone on his annual holiday."—P. 3.

We should also have liked to have gone at some length into the chapters upon the benefits of travelling, upon the glaciers and moraines, the warm baths of Leukerbad, Bad-Pfeffers, Stachelberg, &c., and especially the visit to Dr Guggenbühl's Cretin establishment, so well known now, through Dr Coldstream's interesting little work and otherwise; but our limits forbid all or any of this. The two following extracts are given merely as being in themselves curious, and as showing that under his umbrageous wide-awake (in praise of which we can from experience speak), the Doctor carried a pair of fresh, shrewd, and honest eyes.

"The nearly total absence of birds of every sort, was a thing which struck us as very remarkable in our Swiss tour. Not a rook, not a magpie, not a sparrow, not a wood-pigeon, not a blackbird or thrush, lark or linnet, not a partridge or quail, did we see; not a song, caw, croak, scream, or chirp, did we hear from one end of the land to the other, with the following exceptions, which I noted as mark-worthy for their rarity:—On the top of the Col de Fours, in the Alps of Savoy, we saw a raven; in the Munsterthal in the Jura we saw an eagle; in some other place, but exactly where I now forget, we saw a hawk; on the brow of the mountains which bound the Klausen Pass we saw a few white game or ptarmigan; and on the slaty slopes of the Riffelhorn and Mount Breven, I saw a couple of stone-chats."—P. 281-2.

Did our readers ever taste or hear of boiled butter, beurre cuit?

"In looking at the horrid compound sold in England as salt butter, at least the cheaper sorts of it used by the poorer classes, I cannot but believe that its supercession by the boiled butter of Switzerland would be advantageous both to the comfort and health of a large proportion of our countrymen. It can hardly be believed that such an offensive, briny, and semi-putrid mass as the cheaper sorts of our salt butter, can be without serious detriment to the health of the consumers, any more than the salted meat formerly issued to our seamen was so. The only difference in the two cases, is the comparative quantity consumed in each case; in itself, I am disposed to regard the rancid butter as the more unwholesome of the two. The boiled butter, while infinitely more palatable, is neither saline nor rancid, and, consequently, is calculated to be more easily digested, and to produce a more wholesome material for absorption into the system.

"I give the receipt for the process of making the boiled butter in the words I took it down from the mouth of my guide from the valley of Entremon, with
the addition of some little variations in the process, as I obtained them from others learned in the same art.

"Formula.—Into a clean copper pan [better, no doubt, tinned] put any quantity of butter, say from twenty to forty pounds, and place it over a very gentle fire, so that it may melt slowly; and let the heat be so graduated, that the melted mass does not come to the boil in less than about two hours. During all this time the butter must be frequently stirred, say once in five or ten minutes, so that the whole mass may be thoroughly intermixed, and the top and bottom change places from time to time. When the melted mass boils, the fire is to be so regulated as to keep the butter at a gentle boil for about two hours more, the stirring being still continued, but not necessarily so frequently as before. The vessel is then to be removed from the fire, and set aside to cool and settle, still gradually; this process of cooling being supposed also to require about two hours. The melted mass is then, while still quite liquid, to be carefully poured into the crock or jar in which it is to be kept. In the process of cooling, there is deposited a whitish cheesy sediment proportioned to the quantity of butter, which is to be carefully prevented from intermixture with the preserved butter." 1

"Everybody agreed in asserting that butter so preserved will last for years perfectly good, without any particular precautions being taken to keep it from the air, without the slightest addition of salt."—P. 493-495.

We were particularly pleased with the description of the Falls of Schaffhausen, and with some writing, which harder heads than ours may call sentimental, but which pleased us greatly. We yield to the strong temptation to insert a specimen, hoping that our "constant readers" may be gratified by dwelling for a moment, in Dr Forbes' company, on matters not commonly thrown in their way in the pages of the "Monthly Journal."

"The huge white mass of tumbling foam lay straight before us, the only bright spot in the dimly-lighted landscape, and attracting and fixing the eye exclusively on itself. No sound was heard but the one continuous roar of the water, softened by the distance, and seeming to fill the whole air like the moonshine itself. There was something both wild and delightful in the hour and its accompaniments. The mind yielded passively to the impressions made on the senses. A host of half-formed, vague, and visionary thoughts crowded into it at the same time, giving rise to feelings at once tender and melancholy, accompanied with a sort of objectless sympathy or yearning after something unknown. The ideas and emotions most definite and constant were those of Power and Perpetuity, Wonder and Awe. What was now impressing the senses and the mind seemed a part of something infinite, which they could neither comprehend nor shake off; the same mass, the same rush, the same roar, day and night, year after year, age after age, now and for ever."

—P. 70.

"Every one must have felt that on looking stedfastly on a spectacle like this, the eye at length seems to become fixed on it with a sort of fascination, and that it is impossible to avoid falling into one of those dreamy half-conscious moods, in which the common trains of thought take their own way without leave or licence from the higher powers. This must have been my case on the present occasion; as, all at once, while still sitting in the sun and looking on the mountains, I felt that every impression of what was actually present had vanished, and the mind was exclusively filled with ideas of a totally different cast, ideas of desertion and desolation, of utter solitude and silence. I presume that fancy had been playing one of her ordinary tricks

1 These caseous grounds are very palatable and nutrient, and are constantly used as food.
with the unconscious spectator, placing him in imagination amid the very scenes he was contemplating, and making him feel, for the moment, as if he actually suffered what he merely thought; otherwise a prospect of such grandeur, brilliancy, and beauty, ought to have excited feelings of quite a different kind."—P. 298.

We are glad to see that Dr Forbes is able, and not ashamed, to quote Seneca and Dante, Wordsworth and Milton, Coleridge and Crabbe, as well as Schiller and Lord Byron. The book is beautifully printed, and has, what so few modern books have, a good index—the want of which seems to us at once a wrong and an affront to the reader, and must ultimately prove a serious obstruction to the only worthy object a man can have in writing a book—the rendering it intelligible, useful, and easy of reference. We shall be happy to meet Dr Forbes soon again on the mountains, or wheresoever he may spend his next month, and his "guinea a-day,"—"in (to adapt his own felicitous motto) apertis ambulationibus vagans, caelo libero et multo spiritu, sese ac nosmet, augens simul atque attollens."

By-the-bye, he gives two advices, one of which struck us as new, and the other as very judicious,—the carrying a good opera glass instead of a telescope, and the being provided with a competency of "Brown Windsor."

Part Third.

MEDICAL NEWS.

EDINBURGH OBSTETRIC SOCIETY.

MEETING III.—February 14, 1849.—(Continued.)

CASE OF INTERNAL HEMORRHAGE, AND ALL BUT COMPLETE INVERSION OF THE UTERUS WITH MORBID ADHESION OF A PORTION OF THE PLACENTA. BY MR SIDET.

Mrs P., during the first four months of pregnancy, suffered much from flooding, so much so as to render pregnancy doubtful; the os uteri being so fully open as to admit the finger within it. On the first of February, 1848, at half-past 9 P.M., labour set in, and three or four pains finished it. Mr S. arrived immediately afterwards and found the mother in a faint. Putting his hands on the abdomen, the uterus felt as if there was a second child.—No pulse at the wrist; face pallid; and, uttering a groan, the patient said she was dying. Mr S. gave her a large dose of whisky, and rubbed the uterus firmly; a violent pain, which now came on, expelled a large mass enveloped in membrane, which, dragging the uterus with it, thus caused all but complete inversion. Upon examination, Mr S. found a portion of the placenta morbidly adhering to the posterior wall of the uterus. Having separated this portion with steady pressure, Mr S. returned the fundus. This was followed by uterine contractions, and he found it necessary to keep the hand in the uterus for some minutes. The patient required, for three full hours, firm pressure over the uterus by the hand. Nothing but fatal sinking appeared to be her lot. Universal coldness came on, with gasping for breath every now and then. The pulse left the arm for some minutes, returning with