Infant Diet.—This little book on infant diet deserves commendation. It is not made up of recipes for babies' food, with milk-and-water teachings concerning feeding; but, whilst conveying many valuable practical lessons, endeavours to instruct its readers respecting the physiology and chemistry of food and digestion and the principles which must guide them in the selection of diet. It consequently demands intelligent and thoughtful study on the part of its readers; and if it errs at all, errs on the assumption that its popular users are gifted with good intelligence and desirous of learning to deal with infants upon physiological principles, in a higher ratio than the state of society seems generally to warrant. On the other hand, the circumstance of its being in some measure the production of a doctress will recommend it to some readers and encourage its perusal. It does not appear for how much of its contents we are indebted to Dr. A. Jacobi on the one hand, and to Madam Dr. Jacobi on the other; the contributions of the two are so blended and harmonised that the truth of the proverb that "two of a trade never agree" appears fairly contravened in this example of harmonious co-partnership of medical man and medical wife.

Clinical Lectures on Various Important Diseases.—We do not know if we are to accept the present small volume as an average example of the clinical teaching in the United States, for it has not been our lot to meet with treatises professedly illustrating the style and matter of such teaching in that great country. If it be an example of the current clinical teaching, it exhibits many commendable qualities, particularly those of a practical character. But when we compare these lectures with those given to students and published from time to time in our periodicals, and also as independent volumes, we observe a great contrast in regard to the minute analysis of symptoms and the discussion of pathological processes. Our English lecturers are most minute in their examinations, and most fertile in their interpretation of symptoms and of morbid appearances, and withal, as it sometimes strikes us, weak in elaborating facts which shall stand their hearers in good stead when they are called upon to deal with disease at the bedside on their own account. Such a fault,

1 Infant Diet. By A. Jacobi, M.D. Revised, enlarged, and adapted to popular use by Mary F. Jacobi, M.D. New York, 1874.
2 Clinical Lectures on Various Important Diseases, being a Collection of the Clinical Lectures delivered in the Medical Wards of Mercy Hospital, Chicago. By Nathan S. Davis, M.D. Edited by Frank Davis, M.D. Second edition. Philadelphia, 1874.
if it will be admitted a fault, does not present itself in Dr. Davis’s clinical instruction. He examines his cases less as a pathologist than as a practitioner. He comments on the most important symptoms and reads them in the light of modern pathology, but he finds his most congenial duty to be the indication for treatment to be pursued.

The subjects selected for the lectures do not nearly range over the general field of pathology, and if the diseases discussed are, in the words of the preface, important diseases, they are so chiefly by reason of their being such as will most frequently fall to the lot of the ordinary practitioner. They are not, that is to say, important by reason of peculiar features calculated to throw light upon the less understood questions of practical medicine.

He commences with two lectures on continued fever, under which appellation he includes both typhus and typhoid fever. We find him not very clear upon the pathology of fever, and among other things he refers to disease of Peyer’s glands as a feature common both in enteric fever and in typhus. “To repress the intestinal evacuations” (which, by the way, are spoken of as symptomatic of continued fever, regarded as a special morbid condition), he advocates the use of turpentine combined with opium.

As an example of his pathological and therapeutical ideas, we may quote his observations on this combination “to repress the intestinal evacuations.” He considers no remedy more efficacious than the one just named; “it not only exerts a peculiar action on the mucous surface of the intestines, by which the tone or contractility of the capillaries is increased and the accumulation of blood consequently diminished, but it also increases the activity of the whole capillary vascular system. Hence it not only fulfils the local indication, but adds materially in accomplishing the third object named (viz. to sustain the functions of the nervous and vascular systems).” A modern rationalistic pathologist might object to the postulate implied in this explanation of the action of Dr. Davis’s favorite medicine, and remark on the want of precision in doctrine, and of demonstration by reference to approved experiments of the peculiar action of the mixture on the intestinal surface and of the increase of tone or contractility of the capillaries.

“To devise remedies (he adds) that will relieve the extreme congestion in the lungs, and promote reabsorption of the dark blood infiltrated into the posterior and lower parts of these organs, is no easy task.” However, Dr. Davis is equal to the task, and we find his suitable remedy to counteract the pulmonary congestion is a mixture of chloride of ammonium, tartar emetic, and morphia, with syrup of liquorice. He has, moreover, a second line of defence against “depression of the excito-motory centres” besides the turpentine and opium above quoted, viz., a mixture of strychnia, nitric
acid, and opium. And it will be especially gratifying to teetotallers
to learn "that nearly thirty years of careful observation at the bed-
side of the sick has satisfied (Dr. Davis) that strychnia is a far more
reliable remedy for sustaining the nervous functions than alcohol; 
while the effects of the latter in diminishing the decarbonization of
the blood make it positively detrimental to the already seriously
embarrassed condition of the lungs."

Other lectures are devoted to the clinical history of periodical
fever, of rheumatic fever, of scarlatina, of several respiratory affec-
tions and pulmonary tuberculosis, of diseases of the alimentary
tract, of summer complaints of children, of dropsy and the causes
of cardiac disease, of neuralgia, nervous and cerebral affections, of
cerebro-spinal disease, of various cutaneous diseases of mania à
potu and chronic disease of the brain, and, lastly, of pneumonia.

The miscellaneous character of the contents of this volume will
appear from this enumeration of the subjects lectured upon. The
manner and the matter are such as would be looked for from a good
practical physician in passing from bed to bed in a hospital ward,
and, as we commenced by saying, do not resemble the well-studied
and elaborate disquisitions on disease delivered in the lecture rooms
of our British hospitals under the title of clinical lectures. Each de-
scription of teaching has its advantages, and it would be well could
the two be combined. But a volume of clinical lectures like that
before us would be pronounced in the old world a superficial
production.

On the Functional Derangements of the Liver.1—We owe
an apology to the author and the publishers of this volume
for the delay in noticing it in our pages. However, the de-
mand for notice was, we felt, not so pressing as in the case of a
book containing matter for the first time made public, inasmuch as
these lectures have already been placed before the profession both in
the lecture room and in the pages of our weekly contemporaries.
They will have consequently won their position in public favour, and
need not a commendatory notice from us. At the same time, it is
both a duty and a privilege to direct the attention of our readers to
the particular value of these lectures on liver derangements, know-
ing the large amount of instruction they contain.

The liver is a well-abused organ both by the public and by pro-
fessional men, and particularly so in years now passing by. Liver
derangement has long been a popular complaint, and in cases of
illness where no satisfactory cause has been made out the liver has
very frequently been found chargeable. In recent days liver com-

1 On the Functional Derangements of the Liver, being the Croonian Lectures
delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, in March, 1874. By CHARLES
Murchison, M.D., F.R.S. London, 1874.