A good collection of cases,—some few of which are illustrated by wood engravings,—adds to the practical value of the book, and no medical man will fail to cull useful information respecting treatment from its pages. The direct application of electricity to the vocal cords is a remedy the author declares almost always successful in paralysis of the adductors,—the most common nervous disorder of the larynx, and also in lost power of the tensors. The instrument for applying electricity was an invention of Dr. Mackenzie’s. It was formerly called a “laryngeal galvanizer,” but the inventor now prefers to term it a “laryngeal electrode.” It is an ingenious instrument; but it needs a practised or well-skilled hand to introduce one of its poles within the glottis so as to come into contact with the vocal cords.

Art. XVI.—Rodent Cancer, with Photographic and other Illustrations of its Nature and Treatment. By Charles H. Moore, F.R.C.S., &c. London, 1867. Fcp. 8vo, pp. 128.

Clinical Illustrations of Various Forms of Cancer and of other Diseases likely to be mistaken for them, with especial reference to the Surgical Treatment. By Oliver Pemberton. London, 1867. 4to, pp. 128.

The author of the first-named treatise enjoys particular opportunities, as Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, for the observation of the nature and treatment of cancerous diseases, and has already given proof of his good use of those opportunities by his previously published book on ‘The Antecedents of Cancer.’ In the present work he has undertaken to set forth the grounds for considering rodent facial ulcerations to have a close alliance with cancer, and to illustrate their fitness for adequate surgical operations and the large success that may be looked for from such operations. The definition, pathology, diagnosis, course, and general principles of treatment, are well conveyed in the first fifty-eight pages of the volume, the remainder of the book being occupied with the detailed history of fourteen cases of rodent cancer which justify the hopeful views of treatment expressed by the author. The first two cases are illustrated by five excellent photographs from life, and Cases III, V, and VI, by engravings.

Mr. Moore regards rodent cancer as a local textural ailment, which progressively advances upon and involves the adjoining healthy structures, producing induration; ulceration following thereon from the centre of the diseased mass. “Did the disease only spread in the skin by growth, it would form a broad tough plate, resembling keloid; but it is a keloid with all the central
part of the flat plat ulcerated out. If it spread without a preceding solid growth, it would be rightly called an ulcer." The disease penetrates from the integument and involves all the subjacent structures, and after piercing the cranial bones may grow into the very substance of the brain, but is, at the same time, almost invariably concentrated into one mass by its continuity of growth. Unlike the solid substance of scirrhus, that of rodent cancer has no contractility, hence the absence of pitting and cupping, and the preservation of the contour and position of the as yet undestroyed integument. In this absence of contractility epithelial cancer agrees with it, and a similarity prevails between the microscopical constituents of the two cancerous lesions.

Rodent cancer is a disease of the decline of life, and as a rule makes its appearance in previously healthy persons. "It is not usual to find any disease of the subordinate glands in connexion" with it. The diseases from which it requires to be distinguished are lupus, syphilis, and epithelial cancer. To the last named it bears the closest resemblance, particularly in the early stage of epithelial cancer of the face. The particulars of diagnosis are well stated in a few pages, and deserve careful study, as does also the discussion concerning the nature of rodent cancer and the characteristics of cancerous disease. The conclusion drawn is that rodent cancer is one of the lowest forms of cancerous disease, possessing a lower vital energy than others. It possesses every local quality of cancer, being uninterruptedly continuous in its growth, but is, at the same time, so meagre a growth, "that it has no superfluous material for circulation in the blood to distant parts, and very little for the lymphatics and textures nearest to it."

In the matter of treatment, Mr. Moore's opinion is that "constitutional alteratives" are of little or no value. The essential part of the disease is not the ulcer, but the solid subjacent tissue, and it is this which must be destroyed. This end may be obtained by caustics, and the form preferred by the writer is the chloride of zinc. Ordinary mild superficial applications are of no use. The treatment by caustics is applicable only where the disease is of small extent; when extended to the size of a half-crown or crown-piece, excision is required; and both this proceeding and also caustics may be needed again and again, owing to the tendency of the malady to recur.

The foregoing remarks embrace many of the leading conclusions arrived at by Mr. Moore; but every practitioner called upon to deal with rodent cancer should not fail to make himself fully acquainted with the author's teaching, and to study also the cases placed upon record.

Mr. Pemberton's work is of a much more extended character.
It undertakes to illustrate the several forms of cancer and of
diseases apt to be mistaken for it. This it does by pathological
description, by recorded examples of disease, and by pictorial
illustrations; the last named constitute a leading and valuable
feature of the volume, for, besides many woodcuts intercalated
with the text, there are twelve large lithographed plates more
especially illustrative of cancer in bone. As the author puts it
himself, the work "is simply a record of a very considerable
number of the cases of malignant disease that have fallen under
my own observation during the labours of many years, preceded
by a brief account of the symptoms" presented, "and accom-
panied by such clinical comments as my experience has suggested.
I have, consequently, omitted all reference to the writings of
others and all controversial matters."

Mr. Oliver Pemberton has long been a well-known provincial
surgeon attached to the large general hospital of Birmingham;
but his reputation will for the future be greatly raised by this
monument of his industry, and of his careful observation
and excellent pathological knowledge. The work essentially
addresses itself to practical surgeons, and constitutes for them,
by its numerous cases and ample and truthful illustrations, a
most valuable book of reference and a guide in forming an esti-
mate of the nature, progress, and prognosis of cancer under all
its best-known aspects.

The species of cancerous disease recognised are scirrhous and
an acute variety of this hard cancer; medullary or encephaloid,
having three varieties—the firm, the melanotic, and the cystic;
osteoïd, fibrous, colloïd, and epithelial, the last named pre-
senting a melanotic variety. Rodent ulcer is introduced at the
end of the treatise, but is not regarded as a true cancerous
affection.

The species of cancer actually illustrated are scirrhous, ence-
phaloïd, melanotic, and epithelial, each species being dealt
with according to the region attacked—as, for instance, ence-
phaloïd of the cranium, of the nose, of the jaw, breast, &c.
The opening chapter is dedicated to the diagnosis of malignant
from benign growths, and this object is well attained by a series
of contrasts drawn between the two. This disquisition is followed,
in the second chapter, by a descriptive account of the physical and
microscopical characters of the several recognised species of can-
cer. The author thereupon proceeds to clinically illustrate
"the symptoms, progress, diagnosis and treatment of the chief
scirrhous growths, as they commonly fall under the notice of the
surgeon," by a reference to cases that have occurred under his
own observation. The same course is pursued with the other
species of cancer above enumerated.
The preceding observations will suffice to convey a notion of the plan of the work; of the value of the matter it contains the highest opinion may justly be pronounced, but a further commendation is incumbent upon us for the manner in which the book is got up. The volume is certainly an édition de luxe, produced in quarto, with unusually good paper, wide margin, and very clear, large type, as though the author desired it to fall into the hands of those who would wish to preserve it in their libraries in company with the productions of our great surgeons of by-gone days, who wrote for posterity, and not for practice, and whose ambition it was to diligently observe and to record the teachings of experience, and not, as nowadays, merely to produce ephemeral compendiums of the observations and doctrines of the time.

ART. XVII.—Hints to Certifying Surgeons under the Factory Acts. By George Greaves, Consulting Surgeon, Charlton Union Hospital; formerly Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Manchester Royal School of Medicine; Certifying Surgeon, &c. London, Knight and Co. Pp. 23.

This pamphlet is intended for the guidance of medical men who have to examine children and young persons according to the requirements of the Factory Acts. As these acts have lately been extended to a variety of occupations besides those for which they were originally framed, it is probable that many surgeons throughout the country will be called upon to certify who have hitherto had no special experience in determining the age of children from their physical development, or in testing their fitness for certain kinds of work. It is to supply these men with a few hints and rules for their direction that Mr. Greaves has written the pamphlet before us. His own experience seems to have been large, and to have extended over a number of years, and accordingly he is entitled to speak with weight and authority. The brochure that he has produced is excellent as far as it goes; but we could have wished that it had gone somewhat further. The information it contains is thoroughly practical, and it is conveyed in clear and precise terms; but the subject is one which might well have been extended beyond the limits of a pamphlet. If the author had entered more fully into it—if he had discussed in detail some of the difficulties which most frequently present themselves in examining children—and if he had given us the benefit of his experience upon such cases he would have conferred a still greater boon upon certifying surgeons.