DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By H. Campbell Thomson, M.D. (London: Bailliére, Tindall, and Cox, 1899. Pp. 123. Illustrated. Price 4s.)

It is in no conventional sense that we say that Dr. Campbell Thomson's work supplies a long-felt want. Neurology—perhaps the only department of medicine that is in any sense a science—has increased so enormously of late in importance that it is an absolute necessity for the practising physician to have at his elbow some succinct presentation of the steps in diagnosis. Such a presentation, lucid and accurate, is now given to us by Dr. Campbell Thomson. It would be foolish and unnecessary to say this is accurate, physician, portance mirably arranged great the author disease? given always the author's supreme logical mind, conceptions and discussed, general systems rather than muscles. Clinical Studies and deals with the various alcoholism, reflections depend not conduct himself that Wilson thinks it would be the hundredth line and we are warned the utmost the diseased brain solely from the physical standpoint. "We have forgotten," our author says, "that although it is true that a man's brain cells have become pigmented, it is an equally true statement of his insanity to say that his spirit is worn and all his feeling discoloured." Very true, but if the "spirit" here spoken of not cerebral function, what is it? We are hand in hand with Dr. Wilson when he says that "the spiritual relation of brain cells is as big a thing and as important as their chemistry. Iron and strychnine, phosphorus and Indian hemp, are very potent remedies; but so also are fear, doubt, hope, confidence, interest, enthusiasm. Moral causes overturn many a mind and brain, and moral causes may restore them." Therefore we need not quarrel with the author, even if it be that he is at times a little more metaphysical than the philosophy of insanity warrants; and even if the "mental" physician have much difficulty in applying these "moral causes" to the cure of his insane patients. Perhaps it might be said that there is nothing very new either in the descriptions of diseases or in the therapeutics; but both diseases and insanity have been presented to us in a readable and entertaining form, and the treatment of both subjects is enriched with clinical details. These "cases" partake more of the character of narratives and biographical sketches than the dry excerpts from case-books hitherto so familiar to us.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL SYNOPTICAL INDEX TO REMEDIES AND DISEASES. For the Twelve Years 1887 to 1898. (Bristol: John Wright and Co. 1899. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

The publishers of the well-known "Medical Annual" have done well in compiling this index. Nothing is more aggravating than to be shut off from the contents of a series of volumes upon one's shelves by the necessity of consulting half a score of indices, and all who have taken the "Medical Annual" for the past few years will do well to possess themselves of this synoptical index, which gives the key to the preceding volumes. It is, however, more than a mere index. True, in some instances one is merely referred to the volume and the page where the subject required is treated of, but in the vast majority of cases the index itself contains a fair synopsis of the various points which are discussed, so that even without further reference one can in many cases gain what one wants to know from the index alone. One thing further we can say, namely, that a little examination of this index is sufficient to demonstrate to anyone the value of the Annals as a fair and representative analysis of recent medical progress.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Book World of Medicine and Science." By J. and A. Churchill.

"Effects of Borax and Boracic Acid on the Human System." By Dr. Oscar Liebreich.

"The Two Disciplines in Education." An address by Sir William T. Girdner, M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S.

WILLIAM R. JENKINS, NEW YORK.

"Chemistry, its Evolution and Achievements." By Ferdinand G. Wiechmann, Ph.D.

"Home Nursing." By Sister Grace.

C. ARTHUR PEARSON.

"Chattow and Winds.

"Herbert Fry's Royal Guide to the London Charities." Edited by John Lane.

BAILLIERE, TINDALL, AND COX.

"Heart Disease: With Special Reference to Prognosis and Treatment." By Sir William H. Broadbent, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P., and John F. H. Broadbent, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

JAN. 13, 1900.