The Anatomical and Histological Dissection of the Human Ear in the Normal and Diseased Condition. By Dr. ADAM POLITZER. Translated from the German by GEORGE STONE. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1892.

This latest work of Professor Politzer adds one more to his unrivalled services to otology. It must be confessed that the mantle of Toynbee, the founder of the pathological anatomy of the ear, has not fallen upon any of his countrymen. The superstructure of the building, which was founded with such matchless labour by Toynbee, has been carried on mainly by diligent workers in other countries, and by none with such industry and ability as the author of this volume. Anyone who has seen the anatomical and pathological collection of Politzer in Vienna, must have been impressed with his peculiar fitness for preparing a work such as the one before us.

The first part of the volume is devoted to the anatomical and pathologico-anatomical dissection of the organ of hearing, and the second part to its histological examination.

Minute details are given as to the various modes of removing the organ of hearing from the dead body. In connection with these, there is a very useful description of the best methods of examining the cranial cavity, the brain, the meninges, and the sinuses of the dura mater, in those cases in which ear disease, especially middle-ear disease, terminates fatally. Numerous sections of the dry temporal bone, both in infants and adults, are described. The sections of the temporal bones in infants and young children are particularly instructive. The striking changes of form and structure which this bone undergoes after birth are of great importance, not only as bearing upon development, but also upon certain pathological conditions in the ear peculiar to childhood.

The larger part of the work is devoted to the preparation of the various parts of the organ of hearing, either for anatomical study or for pathological purposes. Every structure and region of the ear are included in this examination. A very useful series of sections is described, specially adapted for purposes of instruction. As befits its great importance pathologically, the middle-ear is exhaustively treated. The best methods of preserving and showing to advantage the various structures of the tympanic cavity, in cases where purulent and simple catarrhal diseases had existed, are clearly described; for example, the gravity of purulent
disease in the upper tympanic cavity, with perforation of the membrana flaccida, is demonstrated by careful dissections. Likewise the best methods of showing the changes produced on the inner wall of the tympanum, and especially in the fenestral regions, by catarrhal and inflammatory processes are well depicted. In the difficult dissection of the muscles of the Eustachian tube, the functions of these muscles are demonstrated by the arrangement of their fibres. The tensor palati (abductor tubœ) is shown to pull upon the hook-cartilage and the membranous part of the tube, so as to open the tube; the levator palati is demonstrated to push up the floor of the tube by its contraction, and thus also to bring about the dilatation of the tube. There is a very instructive section on the preparations of the organ of hearing by the process of corrosion, which has also a short historical reference. The corrosion process with wax and resin, and also metallic corrosion, are so minutely described that corrosive casts of the cavities of the middle-ear or of the labyrinth may be prepared by anyone following the directions. A highly useful chapter on mounting and preserving anatomical and pathological preparations of the ear follows that on the corrosive process. The second part of the work is devoted to the histological examination of the ear. The preparatory methods and general processes, such as fixing and hardening, decalcification, embedding and sectioning, staining and mounting, are all described in detail. This preliminary part of oto-histology is followed by an exhaustive histological examination of all the structures and parts of the ear, beginning with the auricle, and ending with the central course of the auditory nerve in the brain. The volume concludes with a résumé of the literature of the subject. The illustrations are numerous and most instructive. They are in many cases taken from specimens belonging to Professor Politzer’s own collection.

To the otologist, this work must be simply invaluable. Frequent dissections of the ear by the aural surgeon render him familiar with the relations of the various parts to one another, and to the neighbouring organs, and are thus fitted, more than anything else, to make him a good and safe operator. For such work this volume will prove a most valuable and much needed guide.

In the translation, Mr. Stone has done yeoman service to aural surgery, a service which could have been performed only by an accomplished German scholar. He has executed a difficult task well, and has thus earned the gratitude of all
English speaking otologists. The translation is an honest and substantial piece of work, calculated to help materially in the advance of scientific otology.

*Handbook of Diseases of the Ear, for the Use of Students and Practitioners.* By URBAN PRITCHARD M.D. Second Edition, with Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1891.

That a second edition of this small work on diseases of the ear has been called for shows that it has merits which commend themselves to the general practitioner. This is by no means an exhaustive treatise, but rather a short practical description of diseases of the ear, very much based on the author's own observation and experience. The work has, therefore, more individuality about it than is to be found in a complete manual; on the other hand, the amount of information given is scarcely sufficient for anyone wishing a work of reference on diseases of the ear.

A chapter on the anatomy and physiology of the ear, which, in so small a work, might have been judiciously omitted, is followed by a description of the methods of examining the various parts of the ear. We cannot confirm the author's preference for electric light in the form of Trouvé's photophore, which, fixed on the forehead, is a heavy, unwieldy appliance; besides, it does not afford that concentration of light required in so small a cavity as the ear. The ordinary concave mirror and gas-light from an Argand burner, which we are astonished to find are not approved of by the author, are in our opinion much to be preferred. The description of catheterisation of the Eustachian tube is rather meagre, and the method of moving the point of the catheter from the posterior wall of the naso-pharynx to the pharyngeal mouth of the Eustachian tube is unreliable—namely, that of simply withdrawing the point of the beak half an inch, and then turning the point outwards. No mention is made of the other methods approved of and practised by most aural surgeons, Continental as well as British. The chapter on exostosis is very useful as giving the results of large experience in the mode of treatment with the dental drill or burr.

There is a good practical chapter on diseases of the throat and nose as they are found associated with middle-ear disease. The author still limits himself to the use of the finger-nail in the removal of adenoid growths from the naso-pharynx. A finger-nail capable of severing the tough tissue often met