Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Liver, Jaundice, and Abdominal Dropsy, including the Croonian Lectures on Functional Derangements of the Liver, delivered at the Royal College of Physicians in 1874. By Charles Murchison, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Third Edition. Edited by T. Lauder Brunton, M.D., Sc.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Assistant Physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The Section on Tropical Diseases by Sir Joseph Fayrer, K.C.S.I., LL.D., M.D., F.B.C.P., F.E.S. London: Longmans, Green, & Co.: 1885.

It is with melancholy feelings that we take up this new edition of a familiar work, for its perusal recalls the sense of personal loss experienced on the decease of its lamented author. At this time it would be out of place to express any opinion of a work which has for so long been highly esteemed by the medical world as the most useful guide to the subjects of which it treats, and in the few remarks which follow we shall confine our attention to some of the changes which we find in this new edition. The editor has approached his task with the feeling that he would best perform his duty by trying as far as possible to preserve the individuality of the work, and he has therefore placed his alterations and additions in brackets, so that they can at once be distinguished by the reader. With a few exceptions the changes are insignificant, simply bringing the work up to the present state of our knowledge, and they are all introduced with the modesty and taste which are so characteristic of the editor. The section on Tropical Abscess has been considerably enlarged by Fayrer, who has added an interesting statement regarding the Relation of Liver Abscess to Dysentery, a useful series of statistics bearing on hepatic abscess, and several additional cases, while he has enlarged the part of it dealing with treatment, especially with respect to operative interference. His description of the method of operating adds much to the value of the work for intending Indian medical officers.

The mode of action of toluyendiamine in causing jaundice and haemoglobinuria is clearly and succinctly explained by Brunton, who gives the results of Stadelmann's experiments, and thus adds a most interesting section to the work.

Jaundice of nervous origin, which was only dealt with somewhat briefly by the author, is supplemented by some interesting statements by Brunton, who brings forward the facts of experiments on the sympathetic and pneumogastric nerves in the increase and diminution of bile as a confirmation of Murchison's teachings. Brunton further points out that there is another interpretation of true icterus neonatorum than that given by the author, and he prefers to regard the whole subject of the destruction or transformation of the biliary constituents as still obscure.

The section on the Surgical Treatment of Gall-stones is a most
useful addition to the work, and the subject of cholecystotomy is fully discussed, the valuable labours of Marion Sims, Lawson Tait, Musser, and Keen being brought forward. As this is one of the many points in which surgery has come to the aid of medicine in recent years, it is a very valuable addition to the work.

Another most interesting addition is that containing Brunton’s remarks on the important function of the liver in preventing, not only bile, but other substances, from entering into the general circulation, a subject which he illustrates with a great wealth of observations.

In addition to these and some other similar additions to the work, Brunton has, as might be expected, made considerable additions in the matter of remedies, more especially in the concluding sections on Functional Derangements.

All the alterations have been made in a reverent and tender spirit, which will be appreciated by the reader. The editor and Sir Joseph Fayrer are to be congratulated on having at once done so much and so little, so that, while thoroughly representing the state of our present knowledge, the work remains as valuable for the present time as it was for the period when it left the hands of the author.

Clinical Lectures on the Practice of Medicine. By the late Robert J. Graves, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the School of Physic in Ireland. To which is prefixed a Criticism by Professor Trouseau. In two volumes. Vol. II. London: The New Sydenham Society, 1884.

We can only repeat what we said when the first volume of the Clinical Lectures appeared as one of the New Sydenham Society’s series, that we think the Society has been right in reprinting Graves’ works, and in saying this we desire to express the thanks of the profession to them for doing so.

Contributions to Pathology and the Practice of Medicine. By John Richard Wardell, M.D. Edin., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Consulting Physician to the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells. London: H. K. Lewis: 1885.

This bulky volume had not long made its appearance when its author finished his life’s work. It consists of a series of fifty essays, the result of reading and of observation, and it need hardly be said that the most interesting and valuable part is the record of the author’s own experience. The book will remain the monument of his industry, while it testifies to the love he bore his profession, and the ability with which he practised it.

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