Dr Wilbur is a powerful controversialist, careful and measured in his language, polished in his demeanour, but steady and persistent in attack. This pamphlet, which originally appeared in the *Archives of Medicine*, delivers a vigorous blow against the American advocates of restraint.

*The Works of Abraham Colles.* By Robert M'Donnell, M.D., F.R.S. London: New Sydenham Society: 1881.

We are much indebted to the New Sydenham Society for reproducing the writings of one who adorned the profession more than half a century ago. Few even of the older surgeons will remember Mr Colles, though he was an outstanding man in his day. None who read his memoirs will fail to do honour to his memory. These papers should be specially interesting to us, seeing Abraham Colles was an M.D. of Edinburgh, which degree he obtained in 1795, after studying two years in our Scottish metropolis. He settled in Dublin, and there attained to the highest position as a surgeon and teacher, which he held till his death in 1843. He seems to have been a man of rare attainments and powers, as evidenced by the writings he has left.

In these days, when the treatment of syphilis by mercury is still a subject of difference among surgeons, the reproduction of Mr Colles’s carefully recorded observations on the manifestations of the disease and the effects of the remedy are most interesting and instructive.

There are many quotations which we would like to give here, but space will not permit us.

Mr Colles was an advocate for small doses,—not, perhaps, what we would call small doses, but what were undoubtedly small for the period in which he lived, when patients were salivated over and over again as an ordinary thing. He advised that the mercury should be given when the eruptions began to come out; that, if given before, it did not prevent secondary manifestations, but only delayed them; that the mercury should be pushed quickly till the mouth was touched; that whenever salivation was reached the eruptions were at once affected, and that they disappeared more quickly and permanently than if not thus treated. Now, in all this, those who still have faith in the beneficial effects of mercury on syphilis will agree. Mr Colles did not evade the fact that the careless and unscientific employment of mercury has often produced harm; but for this, he has very justly remarked, the mode of administration (or, perhaps, rather the administrator), and not the medicine, is to blame.

The most interesting chapter is that on syphilis in infants.
The number of fresh observations and valuable practical deductions here is remarkable. In fact, Mr Colles has placed the subject very much in the position in which we find it at present. He has defined our knowledge so exactly that Mr Hutchinson has referred to his deductions as "Colles's law." These deductions are four in number,—First, that a mother bearing a syphilitic child may have no apparent manifestation of infection, and yet be infected sufficiently to prevent her taking syphilis off her child. Second, from such and similar cases it is evident that one attack of syphilis, however slight, protects against a second. Third, a child may receive infection from sucking a nurse, but only when the nurse has ulcers (or some other broken and discharging surface) on the nipple. Lastly, from the observation of such cases Mr Colles came to the conclusion that secondary symptoms are capable of transmitting syphilis. One cannot read these memoirs without noticing how far the author was in advance of his age. Many of his descriptions of constitutional manifestations are very graphic, and quite worthy of having been written in the present day.

The last of the papers is the well-known one on fracture of the lower end of the radius, commonly described as Colles's fracture. The description of this fracture is most interesting and exact. The only point in which there is a difference from modern pathology is in regard to the site of the fracture. He placed it too high up, describing it as an inch and a half above the carpal extremity of the radius. Now we know that the fracture most frequently takes place obliquely, being farther from the articular surface on the posterior than on the anterior aspect. In no case have we seen the fracture as far as an inch and a half from the articular surface; but on the living subject the fracture always seems to extend for a greater distance on the dorsal aspect than it really does. Mr Colles's method of treatment with two narrow splints and a pad on the palmar aspect at the site of fracture would amount almost to the modern method by flexion.

We commend the volume as full of most interesting and instructive reading, and a valuable addition to any library.

Diseases and Injuries of the Eye. By J. R. Wolfe, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
London: J. & A. Churchill: 1882.

This book occupies a position between a systematic treatise and a series of clinical lectures. It professes to be a résumé of the course of lectures which the author has been in the habit of delivering to his students at the Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution. On this account, as an exhaustive series of lectures on ophthalmology is not included amongst the studies necessary for graduation, the author...