Gout and Goutiness, and their Treatment. By William Ewart, M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1896.

We have glanced through this work with pleasure, and also, we admit, with a sense of relief. A reader in this northern city, where genuine gout is a rarity, cannot but contemplate with some uneasiness the duty of perusing a treatise of six hundred pages on that disease. But the difficulties that loom so large in the distance dwindle greatly as they are approached. The excellent paper and printing, the evidence of careful proof-reading, and the lucid style, no doubt, impress the reader favourably; but, above all, it is the diffuseness of style that makes a rapid survey of the work so easy. This feature, of course, has its objections. It takes time to examine the text, and trouble to turn over the leaves, and we fear that the very bulk of the volume may deter some from purchasing it for their private libraries. Here, if anywhere, it seems to us condensation was not only allowable, but highly desirable.

We give the titles of the ten sections into which the work is divided, although these give but a faint idea of the very various aspects from which the subject is studied in the sixty-four chapters:—I. Introduction; II. The Theories of Gout; III. The Chemistry of Gout; IV. The Morbid Anatomy of Gout; V. The Pathology of Gout; VI. The Clinical Study of Gout; VII. General Conclusions; VIII. The Treatment of Gout and of Goutiness; IX. The Medicinal Springs; X. Diet and Hygiene in the Prophylaxis and Treatment of Gout.

The historical point of view is not neglected; the manner in which it is treated confers on the work part of its value. Neither can the charge of egotism be brought against Dr. Ewart; the pages bristle with the names of other investigators, but the author of the book keeps himself well in the background. It would, indeed, have been refreshing rather than otherwise to meet with more evidence than we have found of his own thinking and experience. Dr. Ewart certainly gives us his notions on the general subject of gout, but apparently his attitude is judicial and not experimental. He does not base his theory of the disease on facts brought together from his own experience, but he puts together the experience and theories of original observers and other writers, weighs the
evidence and adopts a theory to suit the inference. The work, therefore, has its value, not in its originality, but as being a well written, critical compilation of our present knowledge of gout. It contains abundant evidence of extensive reading and of familiarity with the writings of others upon the subject of which it treats.

A First Series of Fifty-Four Consecutive Ovariotomies. By A. C. Butler-Smythe, F.R.C.S. Ed., F.R.C.P. Ed. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

This little volume is a report of fifty-four consecutive cases of ovariotomy, with fifty-three recoveries, and may be said to consist of two parts, in the first of which Mr. Butler-Smythe describes the method adopted by him in the preparation and after-treatment of his patients; the second part consists of a description of the individual cases. We notice that he most strongly condemns the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic, stating that he never feels comfortable when operating on a patient who is under its influence, and that ether is a much safer anaesthetic. In this Mr. Smythe differs from the majority of abdominal surgeons, who hold that, while the danger is about equal in either case, with chloroform you get complete relaxation of the abdominal walls, which is not always obtained with ether. Mr. Butler-Symthe uses sulphur (sulphur fumes?) as a disinfectant for his operating room. To our mind this is a useless procedure, and we hold that the only way to thoroughly disinfect a room is by steam, and if this cannot be managed, having it well washed down is sufficient.

One of the most interesting of the cases is one in which, on the eighth day after the operation, an enema of 10 oz. of olive oil was given. By mistake a pint and a half of soap and water was given after the oil, and there being no immediate action of the bowel, this was followed by another injection of soap and water, the result being that the rectum burst and the fluid came through the drainage-tube in the abdomen, saturating the dressings. On the thirteenth day after the operation, and the fifth following the accident, the patient became maniacal, and remained so for about six weeks. She ultimately, however, made a good recovery.

We congratulate Mr. Butler-Smythe on his results, and recommend the perusal of these cases to those of our readers who are interested in this subject.
The present edition of this standard atlas, as the author states, "represents all the work that has been done in this department up to the present year." To the drawings from frozen sections made by the author have been added, in this third edition, the original and hitherto unpublished drawings of the frozen sections from pregnancy and labour, made by himself and Dr. Clarence Webster, and described in Vol. II of the Laboratory Reports of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. As in former editions also, to make the atlas as complete as possible, plates with a brief description of all sections published by other observers have been included.

The few notes accompanying each figure bring out clearly and concisely the points to be noticed, so that the reader will find no difficulty in understanding all the illustrations.

Of the scientific value of a work such as the present there can be no question; but even estimating it from a much lower standpoint, from a purely utilitarian point of view, we are inclined to consider it a most useful production, for few obstetricians have an opportunity of studying the anatomy of pregnancy and labour in the ideal way—i.e., by dissection.

We have, therefore, much pleasure in heartily commending this work to any specially interested in obstetrics. The colouring of the plates is good, and the price of the volume is very moderate indeed.

Lectures on Renal and Urinary Diseases. By Robert Saundby, M.D.Edin. With Numerous Illustrations. Second Edition. Bristol: John Wright & Co. 1896.

This volume represents a second edition of the Lectures on Bright’s Disease and the Lectures on Diabetes which were originally published as separate works. A new section is added on stone in the kidney; hydronephrosis, pyonephrosis, and pyelitis; and hæmaturia and hæmoglobinuria. It is not too often the case that a second edition of lectures on medical subjects is called for, and we congratulate Dr. Saundby on the demand for his works, which this tasteful volume is intended to meet.
To refer only to one detail in the matter of this book, we are glad to recognise a new paragraph in which Dr. Saundby, alluding to the relation of "functional" albuminuria to life insurance, says—"The time has come to declare that only ignorance of the facts can justify the continued refusal to accept cases where the albuminuria is clearly dependent only on the erect position or on exercise, and the applicant in all other respects satisfies the required standards." The evidence appears to be growing that this form of albuminuria depends on disturbance of the equilibrium of the renal circulation. Quite recently the writer of this notice had under observation a young gentleman whose urine, normal in the early morning, contained a large quantity of albumen after breakfast. The patient, who was in the habit of examining his urine, had not noticed that differences in the amount of exercise affected it, but when he was confined to the recumbent posture by a sharp attack of influenza, he found that albumen remained absent.

There can be no doubt that large numbers of applicants for life insurance and for public appointments have suffered unjustly through the discovery that they have albuminuria, or glycosuria, or a cardiac murmur, but medicine has gained much in this way, and probably a later generation of candidates will gain too.

Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U.S. Army. Authors and Subjects. Vol. XVI: W—Zythus. Washington. 1895.

Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U.S. Army. Authors and Subjects. Second Series. Vol. I: A—Azzurri. Washington. 1896.

"THE king is dead, long live the king!" In library catalogues as in monarchies, the end of one series or reign is but the occasion for another to begin. Happily, it is so in this wonderful Catalogue. When its first volume appeared, one could not help wondering whether the energy, perseverance, and boldness which had produced it, could possibly carry it through to a completion. Difficulties arose, financial amongst others; but the enlightened views of the American Government faced the expense; they have not declared for "finality," but have courageously encountered the difficulties of a new series. In the concluding volume of the first series, Dr. Billings, in his preface, indicates the cessation of his labours, in this
sphere, and, in doing so, says—"I can only say that it has been to me a 'labour of love,' and that I am very thankful that I have been allowed to complete it so far as the first series is concerned." We are sure that many in this country, and throughout Europe, will join in congratulating Dr. Billings on his completion of the gigantic task he set himself, and will wish him further success in the new sphere of labour to which he has gone. We can ungrudgingly approve of his having this change, inasmuch as the work now goes on, as before, under the care of Dr. D. L. Huntingdon.

This Index-Catalogue has been reviewed in these pages from time to time by the present writer since the first announcement of it appeared, so that no new views need be expected here. In vol. xvi, however, it may be stated that there is an "Alphabetical List of the Abbreviations of Titles of Medical Periodicals employed in the Index-Catalogue." This supplies a fuller list of the periodicals indexed than any previously given. In the volume before us, this list is bound up with the Catalogue; but we have also seen it in a separate volume, so that librarians should make sure that their set is complete.

There is also at the end of the volume a list of "Corrigenda." Errors in such a work are inevitable, and although we have in the course of the publication detected not a few, it has been a constant source of astonishment to see how correctly the work was printed.

We do not mean to disparage in any way the great value of American contributions to medical literature when we say that we consider this Index-Catalogue (with the allied Index Medicus) to be the greatest contribution to medical literature from America which has yet appeared, for its benefit will extend to all time, and its value be felt in all countries.

King's College Hospital Reports. Edited by Nestor Tirard, M.D., W. Watson Cheyne, F.R.C.S., John Phillips, M.D., W. D. Halliburton, M.D. Vol. II (1st October, 1894, to 30th September, 1895). London: Adlard & Son. 1896.

The first volume of these reports was favourably reviewed in the forty-fifth volume of the Glasgow Medical Journal, at pp. 227, 228. The second closely resembles its predecessor. The plan of the reports is practically the same, except that the editors have introduced a new topographical directory of subscribers, which they believe will add largely to the utility
of the volume. We note, also, with pleasure, that the number of subscribers has increased since the first issue.

In addition to the reports from the various departments of the hospital—surgical, medical, pathological, &c.—there are notes on cases of special interest, some of which are of considerable value. There is, also, as in the first volume, a series of original articles, of which we simply give the titles, as none call for special mention. Dr. Curnow completes his historical sketch of “King’s College and King’s College Hospital;” Dr. Nestor Tirard writes a short article on “Intermittent Pulse;” Dr. Norman Dalton, “Notes on Abscess of the Liver.” The next contributions are on the “Diagnosis and Prognosis in Cases of Valvular Disease,” by Sir Hugh Beevor, Bart., M.D., and on the “Sterility of Wounds,” by G. L. Cheatle, F.R.C.S. The importance of inquiring into the condition of the urethra in cases of arthritis is emphasised in a short article by Dr. T. Sydney Short entitled, “On the Association between Urethritis and Subacute Inflammations of Joints.” The concluding communication is a short résumé entitled, “Antitoxins and Antitoxin Treatment,” by Richard T. Hewlett.

The Enlarged Cirrhotic Liver. By Arthur Foxwell, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers.

The two essays contained in this little volume are due to the author’s conviction that an unnecessary amount of difficulty surrounds the physical determination of the condition of the liver in cirrhosis, and especially in alcoholic cirrhosis. “Clinically, the alcoholic, as well as the other forms, is characterised by an enlargement of the organ, those cases where diminution is noted being quite the exception. It is true that contraction, when it does occur, means an advanced stage of the disease; but even in the severest forms, enlargement remains the rule.” This doctrine is illustrated by references to, and statistics based upon, a large number of cases.

Angio-Neurosis: being Studies in Diseases of the Vaso-Motor System. By W. Ramsay Smith, M.B., C.M., B.Sc. Bristol: John Wright & Co.

This work consists of eleven chapters, some of which have already appeared in print elsewhere. One of the principal objects which the author has in view is to describe two
diseases which he believes have escaped notice heretofore. The first of these he terms "general angio-neurotic oedema;" among its characteristics are "high temperature, certain subjective sensations, hyperemia of the skin, and subsequent desquamation." The other is designated "erythema-urticaria," and is regarded as a constitutional disorder with a local manifestation. Reference is made to numerous cases of curious vaso-motor affections.

Food in Health and Disease. By I. Burney Yeo, M.D., F.R.C.P. With Illustrations. New and Revised Edition. London, Paris, and Melbourne: Cassell & Company, Limited. 1896.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1889, and was reprinted four times before the present revised edition was published last year. It is obvious, therefore, that the book has commended itself to a large number of readers, and has become fairly independent of the comments of the reviewer. We are glad, however, to have the opportunity of calling attention to the new issue of this excellent manual.

Die Pathologie der Schutzpocken-Impfung. ["The Pathology of Vaccination."] By L. Fürst. Berlin: Oscar Coblentz. 1896.

This work is a tribute to the memory of Jenner, the centenary of whose great achievement has been so recently celebrated. Attention is called in the preface to the contrast between Jenner's discovery by the empirical method and that of Behring, who, following on the lines laid down by Pasteur and Koch, arrived, a hundred years after Jenner, at a result of a similar beneficial nature by a long course of purposeful labour.

The first chapter is of a general kind, dealing with vaccination and serum-therapy, humanised and animal vaccine, the specific contagium, local and general symptoms, first and repeated vaccinations, and statistics.

The second chapter treats of the symptomatology and course of normal vaccinia.

The third deals with anomalous and morbid symptoms following on vaccination (auto-inoculation, abnormal local
conditions, and general anomalies). In the next chapter various untoward infections are considered (cutaneous and otherwise), whilst the fifth chapter discusses the hygiene of vaccination, and the prophylaxis of vaccinal diseases. A bibliography and index conclude the work.

On Deafness, Giddiness, and Noises in the Head. By EDWARD WOAKES, M.D. Lond.; assisted by CLAUD WOAKES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Part I. London: H. K. Lewis. 1896.

There is no doubt that this book serves a useful purpose. Practitioners and even aural surgeons are often at a loss with regard to cases of giddiness and tinnitus, and there are cases of progressive deafness which baffle the skill of even the most experienced aurists. Now, without pretending to cure all these troublesome cases, Dr. Woakes attempts a scientific classification of them, and as this must be the first step towards their successful management, we heartily welcome this book. The fact that this is a reissue of the work shows that the efforts of the author have been appreciated by the medical profession.

The work opens with a discussion of the much vexed question of the localisation of the seat of the function of equilibration, and the author adheres to the opinion, supported by the recent work of Ewald, that this is to be found in the labyrinth in the crista acusticae of the ampullæ, and the maculae acusticae of the utricle and sacculæ.

Chapter II deals with the symptomatology of vertigo, and classifies it as—(1) stomachic; (2) due to Ménière's disease; (3) due to nasal disease; or (4) due to ear disease. Dr. Woakes gives a clear exposition of the etiology of stomachic vertigo. We are inclined to think that he exaggerates the importance of ethmoiditis as a cause of progressive deafness, and our experience is that a large number of these cases occur in which there is no cause in the nose, and for which nasal treatment is useless even in the early stages. Still, we believe that Dr. Woakes has done a distinct service in emphasising the connection between nasal diseases and progressive deafness.

The later chapters of the book deal with causes of tinnitus in the middle and external ears, and with the ear affections of infancy and childhood. Post-nasal growths are fully discussed, but a larger selection of the mechanical means for the removal of these might with advantage have been given. A short selection of formulæ is given at the end of the volume. The
book is well printed, and has a copious index. Altogether, the work is a very valuable one, and throws a clear light on a very difficult subject.

Refraction of the Eye. By A. Stanford Morton. Sixth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

It is almost unnecessary to say anything in commendation of a book which has passed through five editions. So far as it goes this little book forms an excellent guide to the estimation of the refraction of the eye, and cannot fail to be of great service to a student beginning his studies. It is, however, only a book of directions as to refraction testing, and cannot in any sense be called an adequate discussion of the refraction of the eye. That this volume should have passed through so many editions serves to show that it amply meets a felt want; at the same time the fact of its doing so indicates that there are still very many who prefer to be guided simply by rule rather than to have a first-hand knowledge of the principles of the science which they profess.

We doubt very much the propriety of the author leaving out all notice of the modern methods of ophthalmometry. Ophthalmometers of various forms are now to be seen in all clinics, and thus the large majority of students are more or less familiar with their use. While it is true that no sensible man would venture to order glasses by such an examination, yet it is equally true that the assistance to be derived from such an investigation is very great.

Notes on the More Common Diseases of the Eye. By R. W. Doyne. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

The apology for the publication of this book is that it is suited to the requirements of the busy practitioner. All we can say is that any practitioner who is so busy that he has to fall back on a book of this sort is doing a very wrong thing to interfere at all with ophthalmic work. Mr. Doyne is worthy of all respect as an honourable man and as an intelligent practitioner, and therefore it is to be much regretted, for his own credit, that he has attempted to deal with such a large number of subjects within the compass of forty small pages.

We cannot think that any good purpose is served by the publication of such books.
Skiascopy. **By Edward Jackson, M.D.** Philadelphia: Edwards and Docker Company. 1896.

This is an excellent book, and we have every confidence in highly recommending it to ophthalmic surgeons and to students. It is probably the best practical exposition of the shadow test in the English language. The style of the author is lucid and clear, and in that respect differs most agreeably from the slipshod work which too often comes from the other side of the Atlantic. Dr. Jackson does not forget that good material loses nothing by being served up well.

Probably no simpler explanation of the somewhat intricate phenomena on which skiascopy is founded could have been written, and it is given with a breadth of grasp which deserves high praise.

The author’s suggestion that the learner should always begin with eyes of known refractive power, and study in them the conditions of reversals of shadows, will be to most a new idea, and one which ought to be adopted. By following it the student cannot but gain a knowledge of the subject which will stand him in good stead in the most complicated cases. By most other methods he is apt to acquire a mere rule of thumb method of working, and will probably never have that insight into the subject which is so desirable.

Some of the diagrams might be improved, but in the main they partake of the excellence of the book.

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Archives of Clinical Skiagraphy. Edited by Sydney Rowland, B.A. Camb. London: The Rebman Publishing Company, Limited. 1896.

The first number of this important periodical publication appeared in May, 1896, and the third in December last. To all interested in the practical application of the x-rays, these archives will be of great interest, not only as showing what can be done, but also as a permanent record of progress. In all, eighteen plates have now been published of various injuries and diseases of the bones, some of them wonderful in the distinctness of detail which they exhibit. A note is contributed to the December number by Dr. John Macintyre on the photography of soft tissues, along with a plate showing an outline of the heart. The plates and the letterpress alike are most creditable to the editor, the contributors, and the publishers alike.
Prize Essays on Leprosy. By Newman, Ehlers, and Impey. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1895.

These "Essays" form valuable contributions to the literature of this disease. We have had recently occasion to consult Dr. Newman's History of Leprosy in the British Islands, and have found it to be full, accurate, and interesting in every respect. Dr. Ehlers treats of the conditions under which leprosy has declined in Iceland, and Dr. Impey reports on the facts as to the recent increase of leprosy at the Cape and its prevalence in South Africa.

An alphabetical index would have been a very valuable addition to the volume.

Year-Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. Thirteenth Annual Issue. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Limited. 1896.

This has now become a large and important volume, and we have great pleasure in most cordially recommending it to the notice of the Glasgow medical societies. Section XIV is devoted to medicine, and is in every respect full and satisfactory. We hope that the Glasgow secretaries will not fail to send in their returns to the Messrs. Griffin, who deserve every praise for their enterprise in issuing so important a year-book.

ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

SURGERY.

By Grant Andrew, M.B., C.M.

Aids to Cerebral Localisation.—Dr. Eskridge offers as aids in topical diagnosis a group of five speech defects, an interesting series of symptoms that might be almost indefinitely extended, but the more valuable are among those summarised below:

1. If the lesion is in the foot of the third left frontal (Broca’s) convolution in right-handed persons, and in the corresponding portion of the brain on the opposite side in left-handed individuals, the patient will be unable to speak voluntarily, to repeat words after another, to read aloud, to think in speech, and, in the majority of cases, to write voluntarily or from dictation so as to be understood, but he can understand the speech of another. He usually will be able to understand gesture expression.

2. A lesion in the oro-lingual centre (lowest portion of the central convolutions) will cause paresis or paralysis of the oro-lingual muscles, including the lower side of face, and imperfect articulation; but the patient will be able with a