We regret that pressure upon our pages has prevented us noticing the second volume of Allbutt's *System of Medicine* at an earlier date. It is impossible in the limits at our command to give the space which an appropriate review of a great work of this kind requires. From our notice of the first volume some idea of the scope and purpose of the undertaking would be obtained; so that, meantime, we at once proceed to notice briefly the contents of the present volume. The great sectional divisions of the book have the following titles, which will sufficiently indicate the subject matter:—(1) Infective Diseases of Chronic Course; (2) Diseases of Uncertain Bacteriology—(a) not Endemic, (b) Topical or Endemic; (3) Infective Diseases Communicable to Man from Animals—(a) of Certain Bacteriology, (b) of Uncertain Bacteriology; (4) Diseases due to Protozoa; (5) Intoxications; (6) Internal Parasites; (7) Addenda, containing the Serum Diagnosis of Typhoid Fever, and supplements to the articles on Plague and Yellow Fever. The list which we have just given is an indication of the huge field now covered by the term practice of medicine, and a proof, convincing and even startling, that it is no longer possible for a single author to accomplish a system of medicine. In the same way it is also impossible for a single reviewer to criticise with equal value and acumen all the parts of a huge system like the present. It must rather be his task to state his opinion of how the work, as a whole, has been done, selecting for more detailed notice a few of the articles. All the articles show evidence of care and labour in their preparation, and, as befits a great work of reference, detail, statistical and other, with copious bibliographies, is everywhere introduced. As far also as we have been able to judge on looking through the volume, the proportion between subject matter and space allotted to its consideration has been very well maintained. The longest article in the book,
occupying about one hundred and thirty pages, is that on "Vaccinia," divided into three parts—Clinical Study of, by Dr. T. D. Acland; Pathology of, by Dr. S. M. Copeman; and Vaccination as a Branch of Preventive Medicine, by Mr. Ernest Hart. This was the article which, waiting for the publication of the Commission’s report, led to some delay in the appearance of the volume. No doubt, the Royal Commission, the centenary of Jenner, and the persistence of the antivaccinators have all contributed to specially direct the attention of the profession to this subject, and doubtless, also, we can explain the prominence given to it in this volume in the same way.

What will be the professional and public opinion with reference to vaccination in another hundred years it is impossible to foretell, but from the article on vaccination now under notice it is evident that the upholders of the practice—i.e., practically the entire profession—cannot afford to be negligent in reference to the work of the antivaccinators. Of the mitigating influence of vaccination there can be no doubt, and the Sheffield statistics prove this. But the Sheffield epidemic of 1887-88 also proves that a widespread epidemic of small-pox, with 300 new cases per week, can break out in a town vaccinated to 98 per cent of its inhabitants. It shows that vaccination or no vaccination is not the whole controlling influence in the prevalence or non-prevalence of epidemic small-pox. The clinical study of Dr. Acland on "Vaccinia" is, in our opinion, the beau ideal of what such a study should be—well balanced, exhaustive, and strictly impartial. While it is quite obvious in what direction the sympathies of the author lie, no fact or argument for or against is suppressed; indeed, the whole tone of the monograph, for it is nothing less, is as impartial as if it had been a deliverance from the judicial bench. The Pathology of Vaccinia has been ably treated by Dr. Copeman.

The articles on Tuberculosis (Dr. Sydney Martin), on Leprosy (Dr. Abraham), and on Actinomycosis (Dr. Acland) are all exhaustive, but call for no special comment. They are such as might have been written by any competent observer. On the ordinary specific fevers it is difficult to say anything new, and we have always a feeling of sympathy for the gentlemen called upon to supply the articles on these subjects. It is generally possible to fill in a few new statistical tables, or to relate what has been done or not been done in reference to the bacteriology of the disease or its serum treatment, but the great outstanding familiar features of these diseases need
no lengthy description. This has all been done, and well done, long ago. We think, indeed, that space might have been profitably saved on this part of the work. Of course, the requirements of the student must be borne in mind, but, on the other hand, this book will be little read by students, excepting, perhaps, those reading for honours.

We notice two articles on Dysentery, one under the heading of Uncertain Bacteriology, by Dr. Davidson, and a second on Amœbic Dysentery, under the heading of Diseases due to Protozoa, by Dr. Lafleur. We cannot help thinking that this subdivision is somewhat unfortunate, although, no doubt, the strictly scientific mode of classification followed throughout this System perhaps demanded such a separation. Nevertheless, we hardly think that we are yet in a position rigidly to classify Amœbic Dysentery as a separate entity, and it would have been less likely to lead to confusion in the present transition stage of nosology had both forms of the disease been considered under one heading. Both articles are well done and comprehensive. With the work of the writers we have no fault to find. The article on Malaria is from the pen of Dr. William Osler. The sections on Grain Poisoning, Mushroom Poisoning, and Opium Poisoning are by the editor. The sections on the Internal Parasites are unusually full and well illustrated.

Volume III contains the articles on (1) General Diseases of Obstruct Causation; (2) Diseases of Alimentation and Excretion; (3) Diseases of the Stomach; (4) Diseases of the Peritoneum; and (5) Diseases of the Bowels. In this volume the editor undertakes the articles on Mountain Sickness, Neurosis of the Stomach, and Dilatation of the Stomach, subjects on which his previous writings have made him a well-known authority. Other well known authors who contribute are Dr. Cheadle, Dr. Howship Dickenson, Dr. Lauder Brunton, and Mr. Frederick Treves. There is only one remark of a critical nature that we will make in reference to this volume. It is this—the articles on Osteitis Deformans, Acromegaly, and Hypertrophic Pulmonary Osteo-arthropathy are altogether inefficient, and quite unworthy, in our opinion, of a place in a system of medicine such as the present. They seem to us to be more suited for an elementary text-book.

We again take the opportunity of most cordially recommending this great work. It is a worthy successor of Russell Reynold's classical System.
Lectures on the Action of Medicines. By T. Lauder Brunton, M.D., D.Sc. Edin., LL.D. (Hon.) Aberd., Physician and Lecturer on Pharmacology and Therapeutics to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, &c. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1897.

We had lately under review in this Journal an excellent series of lectures on pharmacology by Binz, translated by the New Sydenham Society. We have now before us another series of lectures on the same subject by Lauder Brunton, but treated in a different manner. In this subject there are two possible ways of dealing with medicines—first, by taking the various organs of the body and considering how their functions in health and disease may be modified by different medicines; second, by taking the different medicines individually and discussing their action on the many organs of the body, because a medicine seldom acts on one part of the body alone.

Now, Lauder Brunton has adopted mainly the first method, though he shows that if we keep to one method alone we will get a very one-sided view of the subject. It is only in the last five lectures he adopts the second method in reviewing the several actions of many medicines. Binz, on the other hand, adopts the second method throughout, grouping, however, many medicines together according to their chief action.

The interest of Lauder Brunton's work lies largely in adopting the arrangement whereby he passes in review the various functions of the body, indicating how these may be influenced in health and disease. These lectures being on the action of medicines, there is no introduction of matter belonging purely to the domain of materia medica proper. They will therefore, we think, prove even of more interest to the general practitioner than to the student, whose knowledge of general medicine is so much more limited. The student, as Lauder Brunton indicates, must not depend on such a course of lectures to furnish him with all the needful material for examination purposes. He must go for that to more systematic works, as well as obtain a practical knowledge of medicines and their preparations in the laboratory. But while that is so, the author very rightly protests against what was expected of a student in materia medica, and in some quarters still is. "This used," he says, "to be a great burden to the memories of students, and it is part of the subject which I have been trying as far as I possibly could, ever since I became a lecturer in materia medica, to abolish, because I consider it of no practical importance."

In these lectures, therefore, all he wishes to accomplish is
“to awaken the attention of the student, to excite his interest, and impress upon him certain points which will form a nucleus for his knowledge, and around which he may afterwards group more information.”

Those of our readers who are familiar with Lauder Brunton’s *Text-book of Pharmacology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica* will recognise much of the material in these lectures as being the same as in this text-book, but in the lecture form it is more interesting, and much is new.

For example, we have in Lecture III an interesting discussion on internal secretion, toxins and antitoxins, venins and anti-venins, a reference being made to the work of Prof. Fraser, of Edinburgh.

Again, we note that he gives the full weight of his authority in favour of the treatment of cardiac disease by massage and rest, Schott’s method and Oertel’s method, the method adopted, of course, depending on the nature of the case. Now, with regard to these methods of treatment, few will differ about the efficacy of the first. With regard to Schott’s method, a good deal of doubt has been expressed in many quarters about the results obtained. Lauder Brunton, however, gives his personal testimony to the great advantage certain of his patients have derived from this mode of treatment, and it is quite possible that better results may be gained from it than has been generally admitted in this country. It is quite possible that the disfavour with which this treatment is often regarded is due to an imperfect knowledge of the system and to its having been carried out in a very imperfect manner. The efficacy of Oertel’s method is not fully discussed.

Another interesting topic is on the administration of oxygen in pulmonary disorders. This is administered to patients often in a very indiscriminate manner, and therefore often with disappointing results. We will find here, however, an indication of the kind of cases which are likely to derive benefit from its administration. Thus, while it is of little or no use in bronchitis with much secretion, it is invaluable in pneumonia. In the first case the accumulated secretion prevents the oxygen reaching the alveoli; in the second case it is often very different. One lung may be intact, and by it the oxygen may be readily transmitted to the blood. By supplying it freely the work to be done by that lung is much diminished, and the blood is more thoroughly oxygenated. It is often, however, of inestimable value when the second lung becomes involved while the first has only partially recovered, during
which time there is danger of asphyxia gradually taking place.

Many practical hints are given as to the method of administering oxygen. Brunton makes also the suggestion that one might readily make use of oxygen for keeping up artificial respiration, and has devised an apparatus for the purpose, though he has not yet had an opportunity of testing its efficacy.

With regard to the use of animal organs and extracts in the treatment of disease, Brunton acknowledges that, while many have been employed, only the thyroid in the treatment of myœdema has been a success. Partial success has, however, attended the use of suprarenal capsule in the treatment of Addison’s disease, and of bone marrow in the treatment of pernicious anæmia, and there is still also some ground for hope that certain cases of diabetes may respond more effectively to the use of pancreas. “It is supposed that the pancreas not only pours a digestive juice into the duodenum, but pours out into the lymphatics a secretion which contains a glycolytic ferment. . . . It has been supposed that the want of this glycolytic ferment is the cause of glycosuria in many cases.” On this theory pancreas has been used in the treatment of certain forms of diabetes; at present Brunton is trying the efficacy of tablets of pancreas containing a large quantity of a glycolytic ferment, which he hopes may prove of some use in burning up the sugar for the wants of the body, instead of allowing it to run to waste.

We have enjoyed and gained much knowledge from the perusal of this volume, and we gladly recommend it to the use of senior students and practitioners. It well published, and the pages are freely illustrated with diagrams.

Lectures on Pharmacology for Practitioners and Students.

By Dr. C. Binz. Translated from the second German Edition, by Peter W. Latham, M.A., M.D. Vol. II. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1897.

In the January number of the Glasgow Medical Journal of this year (pp. 59, 60) we reviewed the first volume of this excellent series of Lectures on Pharmacology, translated by Arthur C. Latham, M.A., M.B. Oxon. We are now in possession of the second volume, though not by the same translator.

The experimental work of the pharmacologist is year by year becoming of more value to the medical practitioner.
Much, of course, has been done in this department which may never reach the ordinary physician; but in these lectures we will find, as we have pointed out before, how the scientific aspect of the action of medicines may be discussed from a utilitarian point of view. We have, in fact, the practical application of the experimental work of the pharmacologist to the requirements of the thoughtful physician.

Thus, if we look at the discussion of the action of chlorate of potassium, we will find an explanation of how it acts in septic inflammatory conditions of the mouth. Binz shows by experiment how decomposing fibrin so acts on the chlorate of potassium that the reaction for chloric acid obtained at the beginning of the experiment gradually disappears. So he explains that when chlorate of potassium comes in contact with septic matter it is decomposed, being reduced to the chloride and being made to yield oxygen. In the nascent state the latter acts as a stimulant to the tissues after the manner of a gentle irritant like a dilute solution of nitrate of silver. This is not the usual explanation of the action of chlorate potassium in such conditions, but the example will serve to show how the action of medicines is explained on a scientific basis.

A large portion of this volume is devoted to inorganic substances, such as iron, lead, mercury, bismuth, phosphorus, and arsenic, but many organic compounds are also dealt with, considerable attention being given to the class of antipyretics, including those most recently introduced.

One of the most interesting articles is that on quinine, especially in reference to its introduction into medicine, its action in malarial poisoning, and its action in those febrile conditions associated with purulent exudations and an inflammatory leucocytosis of the blood. In discussing the latter subjects, the writer shows a distinct connection between the action of quinine on such low forms of life as fresh water amœbæ, the malarial parasite, and the white blood-cells.

In these cases quinine may be made to lessen or destroy their activity. The explanation of the action of quinine in malarial poisoning is evident, while its beneficial action in febrile conditions, associated with purulent exudations and an inflammatory leucocytosis of the blood, he explains as being due to the influence of the quinine in the white blood-cells. His views, he states, are not at variance with Metschnikoff's theory of phagocytosis, because in reference to such conditions that theory has not been proved true, and is extremely improbable.

In regard to the administration of quinine, he believes that
the sulphate, on account of its insolubility, should be altogether discarded in favour of hydrochlorate. "Nothing," he says, "but the *vis inertiae* of the medical profession has allowed it to retain a place in the pharmacopeia."

Another interesting article is that in which the action of salicylate of sodium is discussed, particularly in reference to its use in acute rheumatism. By some experiments which he details, Binz shows that the probable action of this salt depends on the liberation of salicylic acid through the agency of the increased tension of carbonic acid in the inflamed joints. The salicylic acid acts as a powerful antizymotic agent; hence its influence in acute rheumatism. He refers, also, to the curious fact pointed out by the translator, in a paper published in 1895, that it is only after the rheumatic poison has been neutralised, and its further production stopped, that the physiological action—that is, the effect it produces in the healthy organism—shows itself; this effect being produced by the excess of the remedy employed.

The above observations will show, to some extent, the character of the book, which we would highly recommend to those interested in the subject.

The book has been carefully translated, and we presume that, like the first volume, it has passed through the hands of Dr. Binz before publication.

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**Manual of Bacteriology.** By **ROBERT MUIR, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed.**, Lecturer on Pathological Bacteriology, and Senior Assistant to the Professor of Pathology, University of Edinburgh; and **JAMES RITCHIE, M.A., M.D., B.Sc.**, Lecturer in Pathology, University of Oxford. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1897.

No better book on bacteriology has yet, we think, been written for students than the one under review. We do not infer that it is the best text-book on the subject, but such works as those of Sternberg, Klein, and Crookshanks are better suited for those who have completed a course of practical bacteriology. In this manual, the authors, after describing minutely the general morphology, the method of cultivation, the microscopic method, and the relations of bacteria to disease, go on to describe the different pathogenic germs. These are described with a minuteness that we have not seen equalled. For instance, in describing anthrax the authors treat the subject
under the following subdivisions:—Introductory, Historical Summary, Description of the Bacillus and of its Cultures, the Biology of the Bacillus, Anthrax in Animals, Anthrax in the Human Subject, the Pathology of Anthrax, the Toxines of the Bacillus, the Spread of the Disease in Nature, the Disposal of Carcasses of Animals dead of Anthrax, the Immunisation of Animals against the Disease, Serum Anticharbonneux, and the Methods of Examination. This example is sufficient to show that the descriptions are thorough and up-to-date. Throughout the work the authors avoid all speculations, clear distinction being drawn between what is proved and what is only probable, and they have thus produced a work as trustworthy as it is scientific. There is a well-written chapter on immunity, and in an appendix, small-pox, hydrophobia, malarial fever, and dysentery are fully treated. There are over one hundred illustrations, the majority of which are photographs and photo-micrographs. In a work meant for students, we should have liked to have seen, for the purposes of comparison and differential diagnosis, short descriptions of the most common non-pathogenic germs, but in spite of this omission, we can heartily recommend the manual as a clearly written reliable guide to the study of bacteriology.

Aphasia and the Cerebral Speech Mechanism. By William Elder, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

This work is to a large extent a reproduction of the author's thesis for the degree of M.D. in Edinburgh University. Special attention is paid to the localisation of the lesion in the different clinical varieties of aphasia, and numerous cases are adduced by way of illustration.

After a historical introduction, the author goes on to consider the subject of "the reception, retention, and production of speech," and thereafter of the "routes" concerned in the speech mechanism. A chapter follows on the "mechanism of speech, as shown by its disorganisation," and then we have a series of chapters on the clinical varieties of aphasia, including auditory, conduction, and visual aphasia, aphemia, agraphia, and amusia. The last chapter treats of aphasia from a surgical point of view, and is followed by a bibliography of papers and treatises referred to and by an index.

Dr. Elder has obviously studied his subject with great care,
but his language is not invariably such as would make his meaning plain to the uninitiated. For instance, he speaks in one place of the external geniculate and anterior quadrigeminal bodies and the optic thalamus as "the first centres on the visual route" (p. 23); and a little later (p. 26) he refers to the "primary visual centre" as situated in the cortex of the occipital lobe. The following sentence needs some study before its meaning becomes obvious:—"In speaking, the production route I suppose to be A B C D and AA₁ B₁ C₁ D₁" (p. 40). The expression "a case much similar" (p. 34) is perhaps a slip. The historical sketch is not all that might be desired, and it is unfortunate that the author should attempt to make a distinction between "hemianopia" and "hemianopsia." Division of the left optic tract causes, he says, left lateral "hemianopia" (blindness of the left half of each retina), or right lateral hemianopsia (blindness in the right half of each visual field). Such a distinction is not in accordance with general usage; no notice of it is taken in the authoritative lexicon of the New Sydenham Society, and any serious attempt to perpetuate it would lead to the most terrible confusion.

On the whole, Dr. Elder deserves credit for the trouble he has taken with his subject, and if a study of this book leads other observers to record in full such details of aphasic cases as will increase our certainty in the localisation of cerebral lesions, his work will not have been in vain.

The Insane Poor in Private Dwellings and Licensed Houses.
By J. F. Sutherland, M.D. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1897.

The system of accommodating the insane poor in private dwellings is one which has always found greater favour in Scotland than elsewhere in the kingdom, but even in Scotland it has not always been so much in favour as it has been during the past sixteen years. Alike in England and Scotland, from 1859 to 1880, there was a steady decrease in the numbers so provided for, until in England the percentage had fallen from 18 to 9, and in Scotland from 38 to 17. But at this point of time a very marked change becomes noticeable, for whereas in England the same movement continues unabated, until now the proportion stands at 6·8, in Scotland it has risen to 23.

It is quite safe to say that the change of policy in Scotland,
which makes itself manifest first in 1881, was one which originated, not with the local authorities, but with the Board of Commissioners in Edinburgh; and that it is justified in claiming that by this means a very large pecuniary saving has been effected, admits of no possible doubt.

The question is, has this saving been effected without materially prejudicing the interests of the poor lunatic? The exponents of the system most emphatically affirm that this is so, and, if any criticism at all adverse to it is by any possibility ventured upon, it is liable to be stigmatised as "ill-informed, puerile, and inconsequent."

The advantages of the system are all admitted, but is any good likely to follow from attempts to minimise the disadvantages inseparable from such a method of disposing of the insane? We have not been able to satisfy ourselves that these disadvantages are either inconsiderable or unreal. From Dr. Sutherland's remarks, one would be led to infer that occurrences short of murder are not to be regarded as unoward, as murder is, he says, the only one to be classed as such that has taken place during the past forty years. One of the recognised risks attaching to this system is that of sexual "misadventure." During the past eight years four insane women boarded in private dwellings have become mothers of illegitimate children, and that this represents the extent of possible sexual irregularity is open to doubt. It does not mend matters to say that these regrettable occurrences are not unknown inside asylums, though on what authority this statement is based we do not know.

There is one other disadvantage which, we believe, amounts in not a few instances to a very real and keenly felt grievance, and that is the separation by long distances of the patients and their friends.

The advantages of this system of making provision for a certain portion of the country's lunacy are neither few nor unimportant, but it is just possible that the interests of the insane poor might be outweighed by other considerations, the pecuniary, perhaps, most of all.

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The Swedish System of Physical Education. By Theodora Johnson. Bristol: John Wright & Co. 1897.

The author of this manual is the Principal of the Swedish Institute, Clifton, Bristol, and writes with some practical knowledge of the subject.
The book is based on a paper read at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held in Bristol in 1894.

It is not suited for those who wish to practise the art, but rather for those who desire a short account of the history and scope of the Swedish system of physical education as practised by Ling in the Royal Central Institute for Gymnastics in Stockholm.

The system has four branches—(1) Educational; (2) medical; (3) military; and (4) aesthetic. It is only, however, with the first two branches that the writer deals. In discussing the first, she advances a strong plea for the wider recognition of this form of physical training as carried out by those who have really studied and been trained in the art.

Very properly the author resents, in dealing with the medical branch of the subject, the system of massage being degraded to mere "shampooing" and rubbing," as practised by those who have been untrained; and she asks for the proper registration of all establishments where massage may be carried out by skilled operators under the direction of the medical adviser.

A special chapter has been devoted to the treatment of lateral curvature of the spine by systematic exercise and massage.

The book is well written, simply but graphically illustrated, and is a credit to the publishers.

Problems of Nature: Researches and Discoveries of Gustav Jaeger, M.D., Selected from his Published Writings. Edited and Translated by Henry G. Schlichter, D.Sc. London: Williams & Norgate. 1897.

The subjects treated in the thirty-two short essays which bear the above title are among the most interesting and fundamental problems of biology and medicine. The author belongs to the modern materialistic school of biology, and his views in many instances possess considerable originality. He is, however, frequently over-confident of the truth of his conclusions. His style is concise and clear, and he has considerable ability in rendering easily intelligible subjects which are themselves involved and unfamiliar. These essays are an important accession to philosophic biology and medical literature, as they illustrate and enforce the importance, in both these branches of science, of the deductive rather than the
inductive method of reasoning. Dr. Jaeger adopts the Darwinian doctrine of natural and sexual selection, and as one of the essays antedates the *Origin of Species*, the influence of this doctrine may easily be observed in his subsequent writings. And on this account it is as well to read this essay at the beginning instead of at the end of the first group of essays, where the translator has placed it. The essays themselves are arranged into three groups. The first group deals with general biological problems, such as the origin and fundamental laws of life, inheritance, and the nature of the animal soul. The next group deals with topics more nearly related to medicine, such as the specific gravity of the body as an index of the state of health of the individual, the cause of immunity or liability to infectious disease, the benefit of training and exercise to health, and a like result from variations in the mode of living. Four miscellaneous essays constitute the last group. The first and last of these, written at a somewhat later period than any of the others, may well be compared with essays on kindred subjects written earlier, as showing the sequence and development of the author's thoughts. By way of advertisement, also, Dr. Jaeger has allowed to be placed at the beginning of the book a *fac simile* of a letter to him from Darwin; and it is curious that he ventures to assume that a complimentary epistle is necessarily also a critical dictum.

In the earliest essay the value and significance of the typical difference between the radiata and bilateral forms of life is discussed. "I came to the conclusion," he says, "that these types are fundamentally different." Jaeger then contends that since there is a fundamental mathematical distinction between these forms of animals, they cannot be genetically connected; and he, therefore, demurs from the opinion that an "uninterrupted connection" exists between all animal forms. Yet, curiously enough, in alluding to the tunicata, he he says, "I believe them to form a connecting link between the monaxial and diaxial animals." He is under the influence of mathematics at one time, and of Lamarck at another. Nevertheless, it must be remarked that he discriminates in the main between the primary types and relationships of animals, as is now done. In regard to the origin of life, he is an advocate of the doctrine of a-biogenesis. Accepting, as is universally done, the assumption that the conditions on earth were incompatible with the existence of living beings, he advocates the notion that life originated independently at various times and places subsequently to the cooling of the
globe to the necessary temperature. This theory, therefore, renders probable the existence of several independent phyla. He says—"The starting point for all organic life upon our planet, whether animal or vegetable, was an aqueous solution of ammonia carbonate." He asserts that living beings may be constructed out of chemical compounds absolutely dead; that it is a problem for synthetic chemistry; and he adds, "but after the splendid discoveries of Würtz and Berthelot in this direction, its solution can only be a question of time." In consonance with this doctrine, he says, "I regard the animal soul as a distinct chemical substance, subject to the changes of matter, like all other constituents of the animal body." It must, however, be freely admitted that if the assumptions of physicists are true, and unless we call in some supernatural mode of biogenesis, some such theory of life as is advocated by the materialists, from the time of the early Greeks till now, must be accepted. Throughout the whole volume Dr. Jaeger shows a disposition to accept as true the most advanced scientific ideas, and he also shows but little constraint in making obvious logical deductions therefrom, which, indeed, is an admirable faculty. Those, therefore, whose ideas are in sympathy with modern scientific thought will find themselves in these essays carried further forward in the direction in which they are inclined to go.

The Life and Times of Thomas Wakley, Founder and First Editor of the "Lancet;" Member of Parliament for Finsbury; and Coroner for West Middlesex. By S. Squire Sprigge, M.B. Cantab. With Two Portraits. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1897.

This is a somewhat wearisome, because inordinately long-drawn out, biography of a most interesting life. Amidst the abundance of uninteresting detail the outlines of the central figure are often lost, and a distinct effort is frequently required to remember what manner of man the subject of the memoir was. We are never allowed to forget, however, that the biography is one of a reformer, and very often the history of reformers is melancholy reading. Wakley was an ideal medical reformer, combative, tenacious of purpose, unsparing, and perhaps a little unscrupulous, as it appears to us, in his methods. He was not a reformer of the highest type; few medical reformers are. On the whole, we have been able to note little of self-
sacrifice in all his battles. We are far from denying that much good to the medical profession resulted from Wakley’s struggles, but it is always difficult to see him in any other light than that of a man like “Hal of the Wynd,” fighting for his own hand, extending the prosperity of his journal, or spending money to be elected a coroner. No doubt he ‘pegged away,’ and we most freely admit that he was sincere and honest in his purpose, but, in our opinion, a man who spends a great portion of his life in the law courts as a principal in actions of libel is not a man of the highest aims and of the greatest refinement. Wakley was a successful journalist and medical reformer, and when we have said that we have said all that need be said about him. The interminable details of his battles in the law courts, of his quarrels at the College of Surgeons, and of his speeches on forgotten questions in the House of Commons become wearisome. Of great broad human sympathy, of matter interesting to humanity in general and not merely to the medical politician, there is comparatively little in the volume before us. Hence, as a literary production, the book would have been greatly enhanced in value by being curtailed to about half its bulk. We would have obtained as good a picture of the man, and we would have been spared the irritability induced by the wearisome record of continual squabbles, characterised by the bitterest personal feeling, and far better forgotten for ever. We do not think there are many readers who will peruse the book from beginning to end, but we can promise a few good half-hours of interesting reading on the political history of medicine in the earlier part of the century to any who will dip occasionally into its pages.

Diseases of the Liver, Gall-Bladder, and Biliary System: their Pathology, Diagnosis, and Surgical Treatment. By H. J. Waring, M.S., B.Sc. Lond., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1897.

This volume, which is a revised version of the Jacksonian Prize Essay of the Royal College of Surgeons of England for 1894, is an admirable piece of work, and reflects great credit upon its author. It treats of the liver and accessory parts from almost every point of view, and will be found of interest and value to the pathologist and the physician, as well as to the surgeon. Where the standard throughout is so high as it is in this book, the reviewer's task is easy; he needs but to praise the whole work.
The three works just named give evidence that at present the subject of pediatric medicine is receiving due attention from English authors. The special branch of it covered by these three treatises is of the very greatest importance. Any physician with experience of a children's clinique will readily admit that a very large proportion of the patients he sees are suffering from disorders of the digestive organs. He also knows how hopeless many of these cases are, not only from the difficulties surrounding gastro-intestinal pathology and dietetics in the very young, but also from the ignorance of parents and guardians of everything pertaining to the proper feeding of children and infants. After all, it is only experience that ultimately enables the practitioner to cope with such difficulties; but, at the same time, he gratefully welcomes any published work likely to be of service in this difficult part of his duty. Each of the works now before us is likely to be of assistance to the practitioner in search of help in the dietetic treatment of infancy and childhood. They have been written by physicians having abundant opportunities of observing the affections of which they treat, and the methods of feeding which they describe. Dr. Cautley's work is almost entirely dietetic in aim, and his descriptions are most full and accurate in detail. We can most cordially recommend the work. In his appendices we find useful formulae for preparing infants' foods, and also the directions given to mothers at the Belgrave Children's Hospital.

Dr. Forbes Ross has produced a most interesting and, in some respects, an original work which, inasmuch as it gives a working hypothesis, affords the practitioner something that he can lay hold of as a reason for the practice he employs. The keynote of the book is that the basis of mostly all the functional disorders of the alimentary canal in infants is septic, and that rational treatment consists in correcting this.
No doubt a good deal can be said for the position taken up by the author.

Dr. Soltau Fenwick’s book is more like the ordinary systematic medical treatise—not very original, and more suitable to the student, perhaps, than the practitioner, but well and carefully done.

A Manual of Practical Medical Electricity. By Dawson Turner, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., M.R.C.P. Lond. Second Edition. With Chapters on Röntgen Rays. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1897.

It is with genuine satisfaction that we call attention to the new edition of this excellent manual. The book is designed to meet the requirements of those who wish to employ electricity in the diagnosis and treatment of disease not only successfully, but also intelligently, and who yet desire to wander as little as possible in the domains of physics and mathematics. The original work has been revised, and is now illustrated by 127 figures, while two chapters and 23 figures have been added to deal with the subject of the x-rays.

Excretory Irritation and the Action of Certain Internal Remedies on the Skin. By David Walsh, M.D. Edin. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1897.

This essay reproduces in substance the author’s graduation thesis, and is a discussion of the doctrine that the various excretory organs of the body may in the exercise of their function be irritated and inflamed through the agency of the substances excreted. The irritating substances considered belong to these three classes—drugs, normal excretory products, and specific disease poisons. Although cutaneous eruptions get their fair share of attention, and although uræmic vomiting and diarrhoea are mentioned, we miss any reference to the manifold eruptions associated with the uræmic state. Another subject which we might have expected, but have failed to find discussed in this essay, is the rash that occasionally follows the administration of an enema.

The book is well printed, and calls attention to an important subject.
A Handbook of Diseases of the Nose and Pharynx. By James B. Ball, M.D. Third Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1897.

This third edition is very similar to its immediate predecessor. It opens with a clear and concise description of the anatomy and physiology of the nose and pharynx, which is followed by chapters on general diagnosis and on the methods of treatment, these together forming Part I.

In the second part a detailed systematic description of the diseases of the nose, naso-pharynx, and accessory sinuses is given, and the third part is taken up with the diseases of the pharynx, including some affections of the tonsils. The first and second parts are excellent, but the third part is unsatisfactory, in that it takes cognizance of a limited portion of the throat only. This is done presumably for the better elucidation of the affections of the nose, though in reality it treats of but a few of the affections of the fauces and pharynx, the majority of which occur quite apart from any association with the nose.

As a practical treatise on the nose, however, this volume can be, as the second edition was in these pages, warmly recommended.

Elementary Physiology for Nurses. By C. F. Marshall, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. London: The Scientific Press, Limited. 1897.

The object of this little book is fully explained by its title, and the writer has wisely compressed the work into the smallest possible limits. All theory is avoided, and the amount of physiology which it is necessary for a nurse to be acquainted with has been very nicely gauged.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the book is the originality displayed in considering those parts of the subject which are most difficult to the beginner, and many of the similes are useful in the same way. In this respect the description of the circulatory system is particularly good.

The composition is somewhat abrupt and crabbed, but this is no doubt due in part to the compressed nature of the work, and the necessity of stating facts only, and these in very rapid sequence. The illustrations are clear, though by no means artistic.
An Account of the Life and Works of Dr. Robert Watt, Author of the "Bibliotheca Britannica." By James Finlayson, M.D., Hon. Librarian to the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. With a Portrait. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1897.

Outside of the ranks of librarians and bibliophiles the name of Dr. Robert Watt, the author of the Bibliotheca Britannica, is now but little known. The present excellent and concise memoir by our esteemed Honorary Librarian of the Faculty will do much to make the name of this devoted man of letters better known to the members of his own profession.

Dr. Finlayson’s little book is characterised by his usual minute accuracy as to historical and biographical detail, and the work has evidently been prompted by a sincere admiration for the noble character of a man who fell at his post stricken to death by the great work he had accomplished for the benefit of mankind, and before he saw the fruits of his labours. Born in Stewarton in 1774, the son of a small farmer, he became a ploughboy at the age of 13, then a builder of stone dykes in Galloway, then a joiner and cabinetmaker in Glasgow with his brother John, and then “an unquenchable desire to follow” the course of a Glasgow student friend of his brother’s led him to study. At the age of 18 we find him studying Greek and Latin at Stewarton under Mr. Duncan Macfarlane, schoolmaster there; in the following years at Edinburgh or Glasgow University; and in 1799 licensed to practise by the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and settled in Paisley. In 1810 he settled in Glasgow, and began at same time to lecture on medicine. For his class he published a catalogue of medical books suitable for the students attending lectures, and he admitted his own pupils to his private library. This may be said to have been the start of the Bibliotheca, work upon which was to occupy a great portion of the remainder of his life, amidst the calls of a busy practice and even when sickness had laid him low. In 1810 he graduated M.D., King’s College, Aberdeen, and from 1814 to 1816 he was President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1817 he withdrew from practice, to urge on the work often from a sick bed, and in 1819 he died, leaving his executors to see the colossal catalogue through the press. He left his family in want. The Index was to have been the provision for them, and the publishers failed before they paid the widow the £2,000 agreed upon. What a tragedy! One after another
a large family died till the widow, with a pension of £45 a year from the Widows' Fund of the Faculty, and her youngest daughter were alone left. With the mother's death the pension lapsed, and the daughter died insane in the poorhouse in 1864, when hesitating government authorities were making up their minds to grant a beggarly pension of £50 a year. Verily, Watt's reward was not of this world.

Watt was the author of many smaller works. Of his medical writings his treatise on the chin-cough, with its appendix on the relative mortality of the principal diseases of children, attained the greatest celebrity, and is even yet famous as a statistical classic. For full information on Watt's life and work we refer our readers to Dr. Finlayson's excellent and sympathetic memoir.

Praxis der Harnanalyse, Anleitung zur chemischen Untersuchung des Harns, nebst einem Anhang Analyse des Mageninhets. Von Dr. LASSAR-COHN, Universitätsprofessor zu Königsberg i Pr. Hamburg: Leopold Voss. 1897.

We have pleasure in recommending this brochure as a handy and accurate compendium of urine analysis. For self-study on the part of those who have no access to many abnormal urines, the author gives directions for the artificial preparation of abnormal urines by the addition of various substances, so that practice in testing may be obtained. The idea is original, and may be of service to lecturers when ordinary clinical specimens fail. The appendix on the analysis of the stomach contents will also prove useful.

The Mystery and Romance of Alchemy and Pharmacy. By C. J. S. THOMSON. London: The Scientific Press, Limited. 1897.

The reader will find a great deal of miscellaneous historical information between the boards of this book. It has no pretensions to scientific accuracy, and no attempt has been made at any chronological or evolutional arrangement. The book in many parts is rather for the general than the expert reader. We think the chapters on the apothecaries, and the history of pharmacy are, on the whole, the best. On
the history of general medicine, which occupies the opening chapters, the author is decidedly weak. The second part, entitled Alchemy and Pharmacy in Literature, is very well done on the whole, although, we think, the two pages devoted to the medicine men of Sir Walter Scott might easily have been expanded. We can promise our readers an interesting evening or two at the fireside with this volume and a good-going pipe.

The Student's Guide to Medical Diagnosis. By Samuel Fenwick, M.D., F.R.C.P., and W. Soltau Fenwick, M.D., B.S.Lond. Eighth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

For twenty-eight years Fenwick's Medical Diagnosis has been a well-known text-book to successive generations of students. Many advances in our knowledge of the nature and causation of disease have been made since then, and so the present edition of the book has been practically re-written. The work is in all respects well up to date, and can still be most cordially recommended as a reliable guide to those commencing the study of clinical medicine.

Clinical Methods: a Guide to the Practical Study of Medicine. By Robert Hutchison, M.D., M.R.C.P., and Harry Rainy, M.A., F.R.C.P. Ed. With 137 Illustrations and 8 Coloured Plates. London: Cassell and Company, Limited. 1897.

While there is nothing original in this book, it can be safely recommended as a reliable guide to the clinical clerk investigating a medical case. It seems to be well up to date, particularly as regards recent advances in bacteriological and neurological methods. The volume is well illustrated, and the coloured plates are very good, particularly those of the blood. The series of sphygmographic tracings is well chosen and illustrative. In the section on the theory of percussion we certainly object to the use of the terms "full" and "emptier" as applied to the description of resonance. We think they merely tend to render still more obscure a very obscure subject. On the whole, the volume is an excellent compendium of modern clinical methods.
Some Aspects of Infantile Syphilis, being the Hunterian Lectures delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1896. By J. A. Coutts, M.B.Cantab. London: Rivington, Percival & Co. 1897.

The subject matter of Dr. Coutts' Hunterian lectures is one of great importance and of the utmost difficulty. We have read the lectures with great pleasure, and can say that the lecturer has dealt with the intricacies of infantile syphilis in a masterly and philosophic manner. No doubt in the space of three lectures only a portion of the vast field of hereditary syphilis could be overtaken, but Dr. Coutts has made a wise selection of those aspects of the affection which have the greatest bearing upon everyday life and practice. In his first lecture he deals with the parental sources of inherited syphilis. The author expresses his views in a clear and incisive manner, although everywhere giving due consideration to the opinions of other authorities. The lecture is not only a criticism of current opinion, but a clear statement of carefully formed personal opinion. The influence of syphilis upon the mortality of the infant is first considered and illustrated by statistics. Next, the question of paternal transmission, including such important matters as the time when marriage is safe after acquired syphilis, is taken up; and, finally, we have a masterly criticism of the doctrine of "syphilis by conception," in which the author does not believe. We have no desire to attempt to settle such a difficult question, but we cannot help thinking, however, that the author is premature in the arguments he bases on the production of a hypothetical "syphilitic anti-toxin." Would it not be better to wait until syphilis is no longer a disease of uncertain bacteriology before indulging in such wild speculations. The lecture is well worth reading. Lectures II and III deal with the symptoms and lesions of syphilis, and the book is concluded with a discussion of Colles' law.

A Handbook of the Diseases of the Eye and their Treatment. By Henry R. Swanzy, A.M., M.B., F.R.C.S.I. Sixth Edition, with Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

We have pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the publication of the sixth edition of this well-known textbook. All through the book a careful revision has been carried out, and many minor alterations effected.
A Pictorial Atlas of Skin Diseases and Syphilitic Affections in Photo-Lithochromes, from Models in the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris. Edited and Annotated by J. J. Pringle, M.B., F.R.C.P. Parts X and XI. London: The Rebman Publishing Company. 1897.

The high artistic character of the plates in this valuable Atlas continues to be maintained. The realism of some of them is startling, when we consider that they are copied, not from the patient, but from the museum models, Baretta. The subjects illustrated in Parts X and XI are—1, Polymorphous Syphilides (Alfred Fournier); 2, Paget’s Disease (J. Darier); 3, Trophic Ulcers of the Hand and Forearm (L. Jacquet); 4, Extra-genital Syphilitic Chancre (Alfred Fournier); 5, Hydroic Erythema of Hands and Lips (R. Du Cartel); 6, Pigmentary Syphilide (Georges Baudouin); 7, Molluscum Contagiosum (Georges Baudouin); 8, Vascular Nævus Verrucosus of the Leg (Ernest Gaucher); and, 9, Pediculosis Vestimentorum with Pigmentation (L. Jacquet).

Royal Infirmary Cliniques. By Alexander James, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1896.

This volume consists of sixteen lectures, delivered in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and we have no hesitation in pronouncing them to be models of what clinical lectures for students should be. Dr. James’s method of investigating his cases seems excellent. The symptoms and signs are clearly set forth, and their subsequent analysis is all that the most fastidious could desire.

As to the cases themselves, they are all interesting, but with regard to some we feel that a post-mortem examination is necessary to make sure of the diagnosis and to complete the case. This is specially true of the case of Friedreich’s ataxy, and also of the case of spinal injury. In the latter, too, we do not quite follow the remarks (p. 125) as to the course of the sensory fibres in the spinal cord.

In the case of paralysis of the arm due to injury, the combination of anaesthesia and loss of thermal sense with hyperalgesia, is most interesting. But if the lesion lies in the nerve trunk, it must be most discrete, so as to stop the conduction of tactile and thermal impressions, while at the same time increasing that of painful sensation.
To some of the conclusions in "A Case of Pons Lesion," we might also take exception. Thus, as regards loss of the sense of taste and of general sensation on the right side of the tongue, is it not more commonly taught that the taste fibres for the anterior as well as the posterior part of the tongue enter the brain by the fifth nerve? By supposing the lesion to involve the parts of the sensory nucleus of the fifth, which have to do with the general and special senses of the tongue, we need not include the glossopharyngeal in the lesion at all, unless it is certain that there is loss of tactile sense at the posterior part of the tongue.

These, however, are points on which one need not insist, as our knowledge of the physiology of the brain is not yet sufficiently assured.

The book is well printed and nicely bound, and it is with every confidence that we recommend it to our readers.

King's College Hospital Reports. Edited by Nestor Tirard, M.D., F.R.C.P.; W. Watson Cheyne, F.R.C.S., F.R.S.; John Phillips, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.; and W. D. Halliburton, M.D., F.R.S. Volume III (October, 1895—September, 1896). London. 1897.

The first item in this volume of Hospital Reports is a series of articles on the late Sir George Johnson, whose portrait is also given. The contents do not otherwise call for detailed comment here, but it is right to say that the work reflects credit upon the editors and the contributors, and that the reports from the various departments of the hospital are so arranged as to give an excellent idea of the good work done by the institution.

The Practitioner: a Journal of Practical Medicine and Surgery. Edited by Malcolm Morris. New Series, Vol. V (January to June, 1897). London: Cassell & Co., Limited.

The Practitioner is now in the third year of its new series, and this, the first volume for 1897, will easily maintain the reputation of editor, contributors, and publishers for the capacity to produce a good all-round medical journal calculated to meet all the wants of the general practitioner. The
special features of this magazine need not be adverted to now, but we may remark that the value of the present volume is enhanced by the fine series of articles in the June number on the advances made in the various branches of the healing art during the sixty years of Her Majesty’s reign.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of the “Glasgow Medical Journal.”

Sirs,—The varying conclusions arrived at by physiologists from direct experiments on animals, and professors in anaesthetics from a clinical standpoint from observing the effects of inhaled chloroform, confirm and strengthen our conviction that, if chloroform is to be administered to do good invariably without the risk of evil, this potent agent should always be administered cautiously and systematically by the rules laid down by Dr. John Snow for its safe administration. It has been proved by thousands of cases reported from different parts of the world that if the administration, and, therefore, the action, of inhaled chloroform is limited to the smallest quantity found capable of causing and sustaining perfect anesthesia in adults for any surgical operation, none of the evil effects resulting when this potent agent is administered in the “usual way” from repeated over-administration can possibly be induced, when facts prove that perfect insensibility can be induced in adults with frequently less than from 1 per cent and not exceeding 2.76 per cent of vapour of chloroform in the air the patients were breathing, as shown in the examples given in our advertisement in the present number of your Journal.

By directing your readers to these plain facts or results, by which alone an approximately correct estimate can be made of the value of a method of chloroform administration, you would much oblige, yours respectfully,

KROHNE & SESEMANN.

London, 30th September, 1897.

[We, of course, do not hold ourselves in any way responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.—Eds.]