Part Second.

RE IkIEWS.

The Laboratory Text-book of Public Health. By W. R. Smith, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Edin., Professor of Forensic Medicine, and Director of the Laboratories of State Medicine in King's College. London: Henry Renshaw: 1896.

The increasing importance attaching to laboratory work in connexion with the teaching of public health, and the strict character of the examinations for the public health diplomas, have rendered necessary the publication of special text-books on the subject. And it would appear that the highly capable teachers in the various laboratories of the United Kingdom, just like those engaged in tuition in our great public schools, should feel themselves constrained to give in text-books their own approved methods of work, and afford their students a scheme of their laboratory practice. While each school may derive advantage from this arrangement, the multiplication of text-books is bewildering to the student, and may lead to rather serious results in the course of examinations. The examiner, wedded to his own processes, is apt to decry those of some rival school and to deprecate the status of the examinee. And it is too well known that when once a false impression is made it is difficult to prevent it affecting the subsequent course of the examination.

There is no reason, however, why King's College should not vie with London University and other colleges in having a text-book of its own. The present volume is well worthy of the School and of its author. The chief merit of the book lies in its lucidity, and Prof. Smith deserves credit for thus lessening the labour of the student in mastering a somewhat intricate subject. Again, he is not above enlisting the services of past and present demonstrators in affording him assistance in the various departments of the work, and, what is specially pleasing to us, he has entrusted the revision of the section on Bacteriology to Dr Cartwright Wood, a distinguished alumnus of our School, and who most certainly should never have been allowed to leave it.

The volume is admirably printed, and has a full index. While there is no stint in providing illustrations of apparatus, bacilli, etc., etc., we must specially note with commendation an excellent series of photographs of the starches.

Altogether the author and the publishers are to be congratulated on including such a highly practical work among the new series of Renshaw's manuals.
Le Phtisique et son Traitement Hygiénique (Sanatoria, Hôpitaux spéciaux, Cure d'air). Par le Dr E. P. Léon-Petit, Médecin de l'Hôpital d'Ormessen; Secrétaire-général de l'Œuvre des Enfants Tuberculeux. Paris: Felix Alcan: 1895.

Les Sanatoria : Traitement et Prophylaxie de la Phtisie Pulmonaire. Par le Docteur S. A. Knopf. Paris: Georges Carré: 1895.

Those two volumes record the high-water mark of systematized effort for the relief of tubercular patients in hospitals and sanatoria, more particularly throughout Europe.

In the former, Dr Léon-Petit reports his observations after an extended journey among such institutions, undertaken in response to a request by the Minister of the Interior of France. His tour of inspection included hospitals erected for paying patients, such as those of Görbersdorf, Falkenstein, Hohenhonnef, and several in the Black Forest and the Harz, and similar institutions in Norway, Switzerland, and other countries; and likewise hospitals erected for poor patients in those countries and Great Britain. The general tenor of the work is much in favour of the establishment of sanatoria, and their more efficient working. In addition, he discusses the hygienic treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in all its aspects.

Dr Knopf's work is the outcome of careful study on the spot of many of the hospitals and sanatoria for the treatment of the disease throughout the world. It is well up to date, containing, *e.g.*, an account at some length of the Victoria Hospital for Consumption, Craigleith, Edinburgh. He pleads strongly for the erection of special sanatoria for the relief both of poor and paying patients.

Alike on pathological and social grounds those two observers are agreed in the efficacy of the system which has the growing support of all who have seriously considered the subject. They recognise, as all must, the difficulties which have to be dispelled before general adoption of the plan may be expected. But they believe themselves entitled to anticipate that these must disappear spontaneously, when a fair and full view of the issues which are involved has been attained.

The Biological Problem of To-day: Preformation or Epigenesis? Authorised Translation from the German of Prof. Dr Oscar Hertwig of the University of Berlin. By P. Chalmers Mitchell, M.A. Oxon. With a Preface by the Translator. London: William Heinemann: 1896.

Prof. Hertwig's vigorous polemic against Weismannism is here presented to English readers by Mr Chalmers Mitchell. Prof. Hertwig is well known for his numerous contributions to Comparative Embryology, and in this volume he summarizes the
conclusions to which his observations have led him. The book is divided into three parts,—an Introduction giving a historical sketch of the point at issue, a criticism of Weismann's position, and, finally, a statement of Hertwig's own views. The English edition includes also an introduction by the translator, and an index and glossary.

The statement of the question is, or seems to be, a simple matter. Is development merely an unfolding of a previously existing complexity, an evolution; or is it an epigenesis, a new formation of complexity? Weismann's conception of the germplasm as a substance of great complexity of composition existing apart from the general protoplasm of the body, involves of course an evolutionary view of development, while Hertwig advocates a modified epigenesis. His main points of attack are, first, Weismann's assumption that cell-division may result in the formation of two cells of unlike qualities (differentiating division), and second, the assumption that the cause of all the characters of the ultimate product is to be sought in the characters of its Anlage.

In attacking the first position, Hertwig brings forward numerous instances in which cell-division must result in the formation of two cells of like qualities (doubling division), and strongly opposes the proposition that all the qualities of cells are predetermined by the nature of their nuclei. Secondly, he opposes the doctrine of determinants on the ground that it fails to allow for the effect of environmental influences during development, and ascribes to cells qualities which result only from the co-operation of cells. Hertwig's own theory of development is largely a reiteration of this position. All the cells of the developing organism contain unaltered idioplasm, the ultimate differences are due to the action of environmental influences which allow certain Anlagen only to develop.

In criticism it can only be said that although Hertwig deserves much credit for drawing attention to the (probable) effect of environment upon the developing organism, his theory as a whole lacks the beauty and completeness of the one he attacks. The kernel of the dispute lies in the question whether the organism responds directly to its environment, or whether the apparent response is not really due to an inherited mechanism,—to adaptation, and this is a question which can hardly be settled off-hand.

Mr Mitchell's introduction is clear and simple, and will be found useful to those approaching the subject for the first time. The translation is readable throughout.

A System of Surgery. Edited by Frederick Treves. Vol. II. London: Cassel & Co.: 1896.

The completion of this important work will afford much satisfaction to every one interested in the study and practice of
surgery, and we cordially congratulate those who have been concerned in its production. Like its predecessor, it forms a handsome and not unwieldy volume of over eleven hundred pages; it is profusely, and on the whole very well illustrated. The different sections of the work are, for the most part, written by surgeons whose names are identified with the particular department assigned to them, and they may be accepted as authoritative treatises upon the subjects of which they treat; as such we may instance: the Surgery of Deformities, by Mr Clutton; the Surgery of the Chest, by Mr Pearce Gould; of the Abdomen, by Mr Treves; of the Breast, by Mr Watson Cheyne; of the Urinary Organs, by Mr Henry Morris; of the Female Genital Organs, by Mr Bland Sutton, etc. Where the general standard of excellence is so high, and the amount of well-digested information so considerable, we almost feel constrained to apologise for referring to the following points, among others, which have attracted our attention in looking through the volume. In the surgery of deformities we find no mention of the operative treatment of club-hand. In Mr Percy Dean’s very able article on Injuries and Diseases of the Head, we find in the description of the procedure known as osteoplastic resection of the skull, that the section of the bone is directed to be made with the gouge or chisel, when as a matter of practical experience the saw has been found to be infinitely superior; and further, there is omitted the important detail, that the section should be bevelled, not only in order that it may be made with greater safety to the contents of the skull, but that when the flap is replaced it may rest securely upon the bevelled edges of the gap. In the excellent article by Mr Bernard Pitts on the Injuries and Diseases of the Neck, we notice that the common innocent tumour, or endothelioma of the parotid, is still described under the misleading term of adenoma or fibro-chondroma.

In giving an account of the operation for empyema in the chapter on the surgery of the chest, it seems a little out of date for Mr Pearce Gould to inform the reader that “the operation should be conducted with full antiseptic precautions; the spray is not requisite”! Mr Bruce Clarke does not furnish any directions as to the treatment of non-malignant stricture of the oesophagus, but leaves the reader to infer that the treatment is conducted on the same principles as in the stricture which results from cancer.

Mr Frederick Treves writes of the injuries of the abdomen in his best style. In the surgical treatment of the affections of the stomach, however, the reader may be pardoned if he makes the inference that the distinguished author has not had much personal experience of the affections in question. In support of this inference we may instance the recommendation that the edges of a perforated ulcer of the stomach are to be pared as a preliminary to suture; the description of the curetting of a pyloric cancer “as
a measure to be reasonably employed for affording temporary relief?; the performance of the operation of gastrostomy in two stages; and the following criticism of the results of the procedure—"The feeding is difficult and the general after-treatment of the case complex; the average duration of life after operation in cancerous stricture of the gullet has been estimated at 33 days; it makes the method of dying more easy—and often more speedy," while of resection of the pylorus, Mr Treves expresses the opinion that "there is nothing to recommend the operation in malignant disease." Apart, however, from these minor defects, we have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that Mr Treves' System of Surgery is far and away the best work on the subject in the English language.

Chirurgie Opératoire du Système Nerveux. Avec 431 Figures. Vol. I.: Chirurgie Cranio-cérébral. Par A. Chipault. Paris: Rueff et Cie: 1894.

This is a most valuable work for surgeons. There is a very careful account, which is well illustrated, of the relations of the various convolutions of the cerebrum to the surface of the skull, and the various modes of determining the guiding fissures are described and figured. Then follows a chapter on operations for penetrating wounds of the skull, with a description of the various instruments in use. We are glad to see representations of circular saws of various kinds. Different modes of making the flap and of opening the skull are also shown. An account is given of the modifications of the operations necessitated by tumours of various form and position, with an account of 134 cases in which operation was performed.

The chapter devoted to operations for lesions at the base of the skull is introduced by an illustrated account of the position of the venous sinuses and the arteries in relation to the floor of the skull, and of the various air-sinuses and the mode of reaching them.

The account of operations for diseases of the internal ear and mastoid antrum is very thorough, and well illustrated.

The illustrations which accompany the work appear to have been drawn by the author. They are clear and instructive, and lend themselves readily to rapid consultation. Each chapter is furnished with an exhaustive bibliography.

This volume concludes with an account of the operations recommended for microcephaly, hydrocephalus, and encephalocele.

On the Relation of Diseases of the Spinal Cord to the Distribution and Lesions of the Spinal Bloodvessels. By R. T. Williamson, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P.

This is a reprint of papers previously published in the Medical
It gives a full and accurate account of the vascular supply to the spinal cord, followed by a consideration of various diseases of the cord with reference to the probability of their origin from vascular lesions. Although we cannot agree with all the conclusions drawn, we fully acknowledge the great value of the work in focussing attention upon the state of the vessels as an all-important factor in the etiology of disease of the spinal cord.

The value of this work is enhanced by the addition, in the present edition, of chapters dealing with the details of the operation as applied to young children and females, and in a still higher degree by a consideration of points of difficulty in the operation, and a new method of diagnosis of small calculi by means of the aspirator and canula, the stones falling against the latter with the in-rushing fluid in cases where the sound failed to show their presence.

Dr Freyer has made the operation thoroughly his own; his cases number 610, the stones being of all sizes and varieties, and his patients of all ages, of both sexes, and in all possible health conditions at the time of operation. He has advanced the cause of the operation by valuable modifications of the instruments, and by his most successful series of cases—610 operations in 598 patients, with nine recurrences and 11 deaths.

Dr Freyer, foreseeing the statement that Eastern patients, taken alone, show in statistics more favourably for operations of the sort than would Europeans, combats the idea of any racial distinction, and finds his lithotomy results fairly coincide for the two races.

Based on experience such as his, Dr Freyer's opinions must carry weight, and his many valuable hints to operators should be carefully regarded.

He emphasizes the opinion that indiscriminate and frequent recourse to litholapaxy by an inexperienced surgeon is not justifiable, yet he declares that the operation is destined to replace all forms of lithotomy save in very exceptional cases.

The work is one to be most strongly commended to all workers in this department as a weighty and valuable pronouncement on the modern treatment of stones.
the main part of this volume, form a most useful and timely contribution to the literature of the subject.

The discussion of the various questions which arise in the consideration of this matter, is based upon the bacterial relations of the disease,—its origin as "an infective exudative inflammation ... originating in any local cause for the production of an infection atrium in the tissues of the appendix, and progressing by bacterial invasion." First occurs a mixed infection, but with a tendency later on the part of the streptococci and colon bacilli to outstrip all others; and finally, an infection by the latter organism in most instances, other organisms being destroyed.

The author shows how the individual features and symptoms of the cases depend on the organism which is at work, on the depth of the invasion of the tissues, and on complications arising by arterial blockage, nerve implication, involvement of peritoneum, and so on.

The disease, he thinks, is one; the various phenomena not indicating different kinds of appendicitis, but different forms of one disease: a position simpler and more reasonable than those which require an arbitrary division of the cases into distinct groups.

Dr Morris holds that the knowledge we have of the aetiology and pathology of the condition, makes it a duty to interfere surgically in all cases. He regards cases of "catarrhal" appendicitis as really catarrhal colitis with implication of the appendix,—not properly called appendicitis, nor to be treated as such.

He places the death-rate of operation at the proper time by skilled operators at less than 1 per cent., and regards the dangers of non-interference as very real. Typical cases are described in detail as to symptoms and progress, and then the operation is described, a small incision being strongly urged, but no rule laid down as to the removal of an adherent appendix; that, says the author, must depend on the qualifications of the operator. One hundred cases are summarized in conclusion.

The lectures will certainly repay careful perusal, and so will other shorter papers which the book contains.

The illustrations are particularly good and numerous, and the publishers’ work is well done.

Operative Treatment of Aneurisms of the Third Portion of the Subclavian Artery. By EDMUND SOUCHON, M.D., New Orleans. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press: 1895.

This brochure presents a very exhaustive and instructive analysis of 115 recorded cases collected and considered by the author. They are grouped for discussion into aneurisms of the right side and of the left, and under each of these are subdivided into traumatic, idiopathic, and recurrent. The right side is that commonly involved—in 85 out of 120 cases.
The analysis of the records as regards mortality of operation shows that of 115 cases operated upon, 40 (i.e., 35 per cent.) were cured. In the case of traumatic aneurism the proportion cured was 19 out of 31 (66 per cent.), and of idiopathic aneurisms 21 out of 81 (25 per cent.). The practical deductions as to the treatment which experience of the records seems to prove to be best, are important, and in this particular aspect the facts are very exhaustively dealt with.

In recapitulating the complications found to arise, Dr Souchon states that 79 cases (60 per cent.) presented such complications, viz., haemorrhage in 48 instances with 10 recoveries, sepsis in 15 with 5 recoveries, cerebral symptoms in 5, which all ended fatally, and other interesting details which we cannot particularize. The book is carefully compiled, the references to authors very complete—no less than 176 being given in the bibliography; the result of painstaking research and sound reasoning on the facts obtained, it is well worthy of attention.

**Handbook of Diseases of the Ear, for the Use of Students and Practitioners.** By Urban Pritchard, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.S. Eng.; Professor of Aural Surgery at King's College, London; Aural Surgeon to King's College Hospital; Senior Surgeon to the Royal Ear Hospital. Third Edition, with Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis: 1896.

We have already had occasion to notice favourably the earlier editions of this most excellent little work, and it is now so well known as a text-book that it does not seem to require more than a passing notice at our hands.

The present edition has been revised, amplified, and the part dealing with mastoid disease and intra-cranial complications has been re-written in accordance with the advances made in this section. The busy practitioner who does not care to face some of the large text-books on this subject will find this small handbook a thoroughly practical and safe guide, while the hard-pressed student will welcome the concise yet clear and readable manner in which it is written.

**Short Contributions to Aural Surgery.** By Sir William B. Dalby, F.R.C.S., M.B. (Cantab), Consulting Aural Surgeon to St George's Hospital. Third Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill: 1896.

This little volume contains nineteen short papers reprinted from *The Lancet* between 1875 and 1896, and the *British Medical Journal*. Our readers have doubtless already made acquaintance with many of these articles when originally published in the journals, and may be glad to refer to them again. The subjects dealt with cover such a wide range in Aural Surgery that a detailed notice of them is not possible here. They are pleasant
and readable little essays, and contain much that is of interest, but we confess that they hardly seem to us heavy enough metal to have called for republication in book form. However, it speaks strongly for the writer's popularity that the book, which is not a work of reference nor a text-book, should have attained a third edition.

_Rheumatism: Its Nature, Pathology, and Treatment._ By T. J. Maclagan, M.D. Second Edition. London: A. & C. Black: 1896.

It is now twenty years since the first edition of this work appeared, and that time has amply proved how valuable, indeed how indispensable, is the treatment of acute rheumatism by the salicyl compounds, with which Dr Maclagan's name is so honourably associated, and which the former edition was published to make known and to defend. In the present volume the author discusses, first, the various forms under which rheumatism appears, and the diseases from which it requires to be diagnosed, and points out that it is an inflammation confined mainly to the fibrous and serous tissues concerned in active movement, and to the muscles. In discussing its causation, he shows how untenable is the theory that it is due to changes in the nervous system, and he discusses at considerable length the view that it is due to excess of lactic acid in the blood. He acknowledges that lactic acid is present in excess, but maintains that this is a phenomenon of the disease, an essential phenomenon indeed, but not the cause of it. Lactic acid is a product of the metabolism of the motor apparatus, and its production is greatly increased in rheumatism where that apparatus is diseased. Its elimination stimulates the skin and gives rise to the characteristic perspiration, and if its formation exceeds its elimination, the other symptoms may well be aggravated by its excess. He believes that acute rheumatism is miasmatic in character, that it is intimately related to the malarial fevers, and that it is caused by an organism whose special nidus is the fibrous tissues of the motor apparatus, just as the malarial organism has the blood for its nidus. The many characteristics which rheumatism possesses in common with the malarial fevers are pointed out; the relation of both to locality, to climate and to season, to personal predisposition, their common indefiniteness of duration, and their resemblances in clinical history, such as irregularity of temperature, perspiration, liability to recurrence, and so on. Not only is there a pathological analogy, there is also a therapeutic analogy in the fact that both diseases are capable of specific treatment,—the one by the alkaloids of cinchona bark, the other by the products of the willow bark. Further, both fevers are sharply separable from the contagious fevers, though relapsing fever forms to some extent a link between them.
The argument is well carried out, and has only the one flaw, that no one has as yet demonstrated the organism of rheumatism.

The author then passes to discuss the different phenomena and complications of the disease, and explains very clearly the production of each; the causation of valvular disease is particularly well described, and an instructive comparison of the heart with a joint is made to do good service. He insists that affection of the valves must often be present before any physical sign gives evidence of it; but, on the other hand, he takes a rather more hopeful view of the power of early treatment over endocarditis than one is accustomed to. Salicin is preferred to salicylate of soda in treatment, and large doses are regarded as necessary—30 grains hourly till the temperature falls and pain becomes less. About an ounce is usually necessary to produce this effect, and the sooner this ounce is given the better. The drug must then be continued for ten days in smaller doses. Some interesting cases are given which show the efficacy of this form of treatment.

The book is a readable one, contains many useful hints and suggestions, and should serve to enhance the reputation of the author.

Die Otoogene Pyämie. Von Dr Hugo Hessler, Docent der Ohrenheilkunde an der Universität Halle. Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer: 1896.

The author of this volume of 500 pages upon pyaemia following middle-ear suppuration, must be congratulated upon the most efficient way in which he has treated his subject, and upon the completeness and thoroughness of the work, though we are inclined to ask ourselves whether all the labour and time might not have been turned in a more useful direction and much of the minute detail omitted.

Commencing with a historical synopsis of the various works that have been written in different languages upon this subject, he next considers the pathology of pyaemia in general, quoting the views of such pathologists as Virchow, Ziegler, and Baumgarten. After a brief anatomical description of the veins of the skull and the cerebral sinuses, the main part of his work is reached, and it is here that we note the great amount of labour that must have been expended in compilation. His search through the literature of the subject has resulted in the collection of 398 cases of pyaemia following middle-ear suppuration. These he has divided into four groups as follows:

1. Sixty-four cases of pyaemia in which cure resulted without surgical interference on the lateral sinus or jugular vein.
2. Fifty-two cases of recovery after operation on the lateral sinus and jugular vein.
3. Two hundred and fifty-nine cases of pyaemia with post-mortem examination.

4. Twenty-three cases of pyaemia in which no section was obtained.

The author of each case is named, the journal in which it is recorded, and a short summary of the cases, with the condition found at the post-mortem examination, is detailed, the whole forming a complete and valuable means of reference for all who are interested in the pyogenic infective diseases of the brain and its membranes.

Considerable space is devoted to the discussion of diagnosis and its difficulties, an attempt being made, by means of tables, to bring out the chief differential features of otogenous pyaemia as compared with those of typhus, miliary tuberculosis, cerebral abscess, and purulent and tubercular meningitis.

In conclusion, we would draw the reader's attention to the result of the author's investigations upon the position of the knee of the lateral sinus. Having sought to fix this as a definite point upon the surface of the skull, he has found, after certain measurements upon sixty skulls, that there were so many deviations in these measurements, even between the two sides upon the same skull, that no point, which could be of value in practice, for defining its position, could be taken from them.

Angio-neurosis: Being Studies in Diseases of the Vasomotor System.

By W. Ramsay Smith, M.B. C.M., B.Sc., Senior Physician to the Adelaide Hospital, South Australia. Bristol: John Wright & Co. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, & Co.: 1896.

The work of which this book is the outcome has already been reported in various journals, and forms a timely contribution to an abstruse and complex subject.

Cases such as those recorded by Dr Smith are not infrequently met with in practice, but their pathological connexion is probably very frequently overlooked, and considerable trouble consequently experienced in bringing about a cure.

Dr Smith here differentiates two diseases of the group,—viz., general angio-neuroticœdema and erythema urticaria; of each of them he describes typical cases, discussing the etiology and hereditary associations.

The first-named disease is, it is claimed, quite distinct from the local angio-neuroticœdema previously described by Dr Dudley Cooper and Dr Ernest Wells. The second is likewise a constitutional disease, but the local manifestations are the more noticeable; hereditary influence is apparently an important factor in its causation, as also are climatic conditions.
The interesting questions raised on approaching the pathology of these and similar diseases are suggestively, though not conclusively, dealt with. Dr Smith's theory is that one has a paresis of the vaso-constrictor centre, induced by peripheral irritation (gastric, toxic, climatic, emotional, etc.). His treatment is to remove the cause, and give drugs to combat the neurotic basis of the disease. Arsenic, ergot, and bromide of iron he has found useful.

Dr Smith's work will certainly repay perusal.

Manual of Midwifery for the use of Students and Practitioners.
By W. E. Fothergill, M.A., B.Sc., M.B. C.M., Buchanan Scholar in Midwifery, University of Edinburgh, etc. Edinburgh: William F. Clay: 1896.

In order that a text-book on midwifery, or indeed on any subject, may be something more than a compilation of the opinions and teaching of other men, the author requires to have behind him a long experience of all sorts of cases under all sorts of conditions. Yet at the present day it is rather the junior than the senior members of the profession who are the writers of text-books, and a consequence of this is the gradual disappearance of works which, like those of Smellie and Blundell, were rich in clinical experience. We fear that the consequences of this change in the character of the books put into the hands of students and practitioners may be still further to increase the tendency to cram up work which already is so marked a feature of our undergraduate life. We are led to make these remarks by the perusal of Mr Fothergill's preface, in which he says: "My best thanks to Professor A. R. Simpson for his encouragement in my work can only be adequately given in this place; for had I attempted to refer to his lectures, contributions, and papers wherever they have afforded me information, I should have been obliged to place a footnote at the bottom of every page." To several other Edinburgh lecturers indebtedness is expressed for suggestions, the use of woodcuts, etc. and when all is done it becomes difficult to see where the author comes in.

Apart from this question, upon which it would be interesting to have the views of some of the teachers whose lecture-notes and contributions have been so extensively exploited, it may be said that the book will be found to be a good one. The weakest parts are those which deal with the puerperium and infant feeding; those upon forceps and the mechanism of labour are, on the other hand, very complete and up to date. The first illustration in the book is, as regards the lie of the uterus, erroneous, and ought not to appear in "a book for Edinburgh men by an Edinburgh man," and figure 58, representing Walcher's position, ought never to have been allowed to pass. The publisher has done his part well.
Supplement to the Atlas of the Anatomy of Labour. Containing Plates XIII. to XXVI. and completing, with those previously published, the Third Edition. By A. H. F. Barbour, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh and London: W. & A. K. Johnston: 1896.

It was in 1889 that Dr Barbour published his Atlas of the Anatomy of Labour, and since then much has been done by others and not a little by himself to shed yet more light upon the mechanism of parturition by means of frozen sections. It is with these further contributions that the Supplement is concerned. It contains fourteen large plates beautifully executed and reproduced, and these represent the pelvic structures at all stages in labour and also during pregnancy and the puerperum. The original ones (Plates XIII. to XXIV.) are from specimens examined by Dr Barbour in association with Dr J. C. Webster; those by other authors include the work of Braune and Zweifel, Pinard and Varnier, Pestallozua, Testut and Blanc, Tibone, Mars, and Webster.

The Supplement, like the Atlas, is a work which no teacher of obstetrics who wishes to do justice to his subject can afford to do without; it is a credit to the Edinburgh School of obstetrics; and it may safely be predicted that it will be long before it finds a rival or requires to be altered, although the publication of fresh cases may necessitate a second supplement. The thanks of all those who are interested in scientific obstetrics are due to the author for the work which he has put into their hands. The publishers also have not failed to do their part well.

Aids to Obstetrics. By Samuel Nall, B.A., M.B., D.P.H. Cantab., M.R.C.S. Eng. Fifth Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox: 1896.

It is a sign of the times that a fifth edition of this member of Baillière’s Aids Series should be required. The author tells us that the recently renewed interest in the operation of symphysiotomy has induced him to rewrite the section dealing with the subject, and that the book has been thoroughly revised, and corrections made in various parts; but even granting all this, we doubt whether the student will gain more than a dangerously superficial knowledge of obstetrics from the perusal of the work. Here is the description of the passage of the female catheter:—“The index finger of the left hand is placed between the nymphæ, and the papilla felt. The catheter is then passed along the finger, which guides it to the papilla.” Scarcely an adequate description, we think; and this loss of clearness accompanies the attempt to pack multum into parvum all through the book.
Obstetric Accidents, Emergencies, and Operations. By L. Ch. Boisliniere, A.M., M.D., LL.D., late Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics in the St Louis Medical College, etc. Profusely Illustrated. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders: 1896.

This is a book which is likely to prove useful to the general practitioner. It is not a treatise on midwifery, but simply a guide to the medical man in presence of an obstetric emergency, and in the absence of a reliable consultant. We believe it is well fitted to serve this purpose. Its contents are arranged in three parts: accidents to the woman; obstetric operations; and accidents to the child. In order in the first part are dealt with: abortion, puerperal haemorrhage, adhesions and retention of the placenta, inversion and rupture of the uterus, obstacles to labour, uterine tumours, etc., complicating labour, the uncontrollable vomiting of pregnancy, induction of premature labour, syncope and sudden death in labour, puerperal convulsions, insanity, paralysis, retroversion and saciform dilatation of the pregnant uterus, dropsy of the amnion, and hydatid mole. The obstetric operations include version, forceps, Caesarean operations, symphysiotomy, embryotomy, and decapitation; whilst the accidents to the child are prolapse of the funis, hydrocephalus, and diseases and deformities, locked twins, fractures, and asphyxia neonatorum and umbilical haemorrhage. Many of the sections are very well done,—e.g., those dealing with forceps and the Caesarean operation; and the illustrations (which we fancy we recognise as having appeared in Norris' System) are numerous and useful. The book is published at a moderate price, and is likely to be popular.

The Mother's Help and Guide to the Domestic Management of her Children. By P. Murray Braidwood, M.D., F.R.C.S., formerly Senior Medical Officer to the Wirral Hospital for Sick Children. Second Edition. London: The Scientific Press, Limited: 1896.

This little book is written simply and clearly, and the advice it contains is sound and rational. It seems to us well calculated to be helpful to the large class of young mothers whose interest in promoting the welfare of their children is in advance of their knowledge of the necessary details.

Twentieth Century Practice: An International Encyclopaedia of Modern Medical Science. By Leading Authorities of Europe and America. Edited by Thomas L. Stedman, M.D., New York City. In Twenty Volumes. Vol. V.: Diseases of the Skin. London: Sampson, Low, Marston, & Co., Limited: 1896.

Radcliffe Crocker's is the only English name which appears in this volume, which is chiefly compiled by American authors, though many of the better known ones do not appear. As a
volume in a large cyclopædia the book is of considerable value, but it is not one which will be of much value to the general practitioner. The diseases have very unequal space allotted to them; thus, squamous affections, including psoriasis, occupy thirty pages, while the parasitic diseases have 100 pages. The dermatoneuroses are dealt with very exhaustively by the late Prof. Leloir in the largest and most valuable section of the book—144 pages. A most remarkable omission is any reference to tuberculosis or malignant disease. A book on skin diseases which does not deal with lupus reminds one of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark.

A number of illustrations are introduced from well-known sources, and the book is well got up and printed. It is, however, a very evident illustration of the difficulty of handling the diseases of the skin in this way, and this is most evident in reading the section by Leloir, where we are constantly meeting with diseases, discussed by him as dermatoneuroses, which have already been described by other authors in earlier parts of the book.

The section on Eczema by Nevins Hyde is useful and practical.

A Pictorial Atlas of Skin Diseases and Syphilitic Affections, in Photo-Lithochromes, from Models in the Museum of the St Louis Hospital, Paris. With Explanatory Woodcuts and Text by Besnier, Fournier, Hallopeau, Tenensou, Du Castel, Physicians to the St Louis Hospital; with the co-operation of Feulard, Curator of the Museum; L. Jacquet, Secretary. Edited and Annotated by J. J. Pringle, M.B., F.R.C.P., Assistant Physician to, and Physician to the Department for Diseases of the Skin at, the Middlesex Hospital, London. London: The Rebman Publishing Co. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders: 1896. Part IV.

This fasciculus of the St Louis Atlas, which Dr Pringle in an accurate and elegant English reproduction is placing in the hands of British and Colonial practitioners, is one of quite remarkable interest. And this not only on account of the excellence of the illustrations, but because of the value of the letterpress. Two representations are given in colour of mycosis fungoides, besides numerous woodcuts. There are, it is well known, two types of this strange disease. One in which, after a period which may be very prolonged, when there may be nothing more than a markedly pruritic generalised eruption of an eczematous or lichenoid character, tumours, often bearing a close resemblance to tomatoes, arise on the skin, and either undergo absorption, or break down and ulcerate. Another, when similar tumours appear from the first, without any preliminary stage of pruritus or cutaneous eruption. The description of the first variety is from the pen of Prof. Besnier, of the latter from that of Dr Feulard. A study of the plates and a perusal of the text should not only enable the
disease to be at once recognised, but the various methods at present available for coping with it—too often unsuccessfully—are fully detailed. Besnier well observes "that mycosis fungoides is frequently enough met with to justify practitioners in studying it carefully, although it was at first considered rare, mainly on account of its proteiform nature and the polymorphism of its manifestations, its periods of quiescence or of temporary remissions, and the frequently very prolonged duration of the malady itself." A third plate represents tuberculated leprosy, the characters of which are unmistakably portrayed. The leprous swelling of the ear is dealt with in a separate figure. The importance of this case, contributed also by Besnier, rests specially on the fact, that partly from his having removed at an early period of the disease from Guadaloupe to France, where leprosy can hardly be said to be endemic though still existing, partly from the administration of chaulmoogra oil and salol, while the tubercles were attacked by the electric cautery, his face, from being in 1888 that of a typical leper, has in 1896 assumed quite a normal aspect. This is emphasized by the woodcuts showing the features at the epochs named. The disease, it is true, is not entirely cured, yet recovery has taken place to a sufficient extent to permit of his living an ordinary life. The fourth plate and a woodcut are devoted to psoriasis, and in the account by Dr. Feulard, appended, will be found a good sketch of this common and most provokingly obstinate ailment. From what has been said, it must be evident that the value of this Atlas increases, and it should be the endeavour of every practitioner to possess it, as a most reliable guide to accuracy in the diagnosis of a very common class of complaints.

Prize Essays on Leprosy. Newman, Ehlers, Impey. London: The New Sydenham Society: 1895.

The three essays which the New Sydenham Society has reprinted by permission of the Committee in charge of the National Leprosy Fund are of interest, but we cannot congratulate the Society on republishing them, as they might well have been left in their original form. They were then accessible to all interested in the subject, and we think the Society would have done better to provide us with something that we could not get elsewhere. Those interested in the subject of leprosy will doubtless read these essays with appreciation.

Transactions of the Dermatological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Edited by James Herbert Stowers, M.D., and Leonard Arthur Bidwell, F.R.C.S., 1895-6. Volume the Second. London: Printed for the Society by H. K. Lewis, 1896. This volume of Transactions is decidedly disappointing.
Neither in size nor in interest does it even approach its predecessor. With the exception of a sensible introductory address on Cutaneous Therapeutics and Dieting by the President, and a short paper on Internal Treatment in Psoriasis, in which he speaks favourably of the salicylates in rapidly extending cases, by Dr Crocker, the volume is almost entirely composed of the baldest notes of cases and very commonplace remarks on these. Unless the Society can show better work in the future, its existence will not be a prolonged one.

Transactions of the American Dermatological Association at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, September 17th, 18th, and 19th, 1895. Official Report by CHARLES WARRENNE ALLEN, M.D., Secretary. New York: Goodman & Co: 1896.

The progress of the American Dermatological Association, and with it that of the study of Dermatology in the New World, can best be estimated by comparing the volume of Transactions before us with that published after the first meeting at Niagara in 1877. That was a rather bald production, with somewhat meagre abstracts of the papers, and contained 42 pages of letterpress. The report for the meeting held last year is a handsome volume of 192 pages, much larger in size, and with numerous illustrations. The contents, too, are of varied interest, and their perusal will demonstrate that the subjects for discussion are far from being exhausted, while the remarks made by the speakers are full of searching criticism. An article of much value, and well illustrated by coloured and microscopic drawings, is that on Angiokeratoma of the Scrotum, quite a new locality, and one which disposes of the necessary preliminary chilblain stage. Bowen’s paper on the Epitrichial Layer of the Epidermis and its relation to Ichthyosis Congenita has been already noticed in these pages. Fordyce relates some peculiar examples of Drug Eruptions, but perhaps the most suggestive contribution is that of Elliot on Alopecia and Eczema Seborrhoeicum. In this he throws complete discredit on the received theory of heredity as a cause of premature baldness, and brings forward much evidence to show the close relation which exists between this and seborrheic dermatitis, while the conjoined bacteriological study of Merill lends almost conclusive support to the view of its contagiousness. The Transactions are well worth the attention of other members of the profession than those who devote special consideration to diseases of the skin, as many hints of a diagnostic and therapeutic sort can be gleaned from them. The get up reflects credit on both editor and publishers.
Edinburgh Hospital Reports. Fourth Volume. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland: 1896.

The editors continue to provide a volume replete with interest and valuable clinical and pathological material. It is true the papers are somewhat unequal; that were only to be expected, but most repay perusal, and some are valuable and suggestive contributions. The volume opens with an account of the New Royal Hospital for Sick Children, by Dr Carmichael, which will interest former students who remember the old Hospital, with its many imperfections. A short paper, which errs in being too concise and too statistical, on the Treatment of Enteric Fever by the Naphthols, is by Dr Ker. He finds that the group, though more useful than any other drug-method of treatment, yet has little effect on the pyrexia or the progress of the ulceration, and that relapses are not prevented. Dr Leith contributes an exhaustive, and a little exhausting, paper on Phlegmonous Gastritis, with a very full account of the literature of the subject, and some good illustrations. Two interesting papers follow on Pancreatitis, well illustrated with plates. Dr Gillespie gives us a paper on Carbonic Acid in Diseases of the Alimentary Tract. The figures deal for the most part with percentages, and do not carry the same conclusive proof to the reader's mind which they seemed to do to the author's. Some interesting flask experiments are given.

A remarkable case of Calcareous Degeneration of the Heart and Arteries is recorded by Drs Bramwell and Gulland. Other interesting papers are on Cardiac Pain (mostly historical); Infiltrating Sarcoma; Facial Paralysis and the Sense of Taste; Degenerative Changes in the Brain Cells of the Non-insane; and on Morbid Changes in the Ear Cartilages. Dr Gulland has a hit at the time-honoured teaching of surgical text-books in a paper on the Drug Treatment of Bacteriuria. The major part of the volume is occupied with medical papers. Amongst the surgical, Mr Stiles gives a valuable contribution to our knowledge of chronic internal hydrocephalus. Mr Berry records very encouraging results in the use of intra-ocular injections, based on the experimental work of a former house-surgeon, Dr Chasseaud.

The usual statistical tables are appended.

The volume is a good one; many of the contributions are valuable. The Plates are very well executed, and the printing and general appearance of the volume leaves little to be desired.

Transactions of the Clinical Society of London. Volume XXIX. London: Longmans, Green, & Co.: 1896.

A well-printed and well illustrated volume, the record of a busy year of clinical work. Many interesting and some unique cases are recorded. The Society is to be congratulated on its activity and vitality.
The Profession of Medicine: its Study and Practice, its Duties and its Rewards. By Charles West, M.D., Fellow and late Senior Censor of the Royal College of Physicians; Founder of the Hospital for Sick Children, etc., etc. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co., Limited: 1896.

DEDICATED to the dear memory of Peter Mere Latham, this little book, with its comprehensive and ambitious title, is most valuable as the final opinion of a successful, honourable, and refined old man, an opinion which no self-interest can bias, and which long experience has tested. Much of the advice given is shrewd, and all of it “makes for righteousness”—is on the side of honour and good feeling. It is the outcome of a life well-sheltered from the worries of failure or poverty, which success has not spoiled or the favours of fortune hardened into conceit. Possibly the man who has to slave in unrequited toil for his daily bread may feel that Dr West has no personal experience of how hard life is, and how difficult it is to pursue medical work as a profession and not a trade. Even the advice to the student has a cheerful optimism, like that of the successful solicitor who advised his young penniless friend how important it was always to have “£5000 in your current account.” Begin by having all good qualities of body, soul, and spirit; take a university education, ending with an M.A. degree; then your five years’ medical study, possibly with a year in a drug store between the M.A. and the M.B.; then a good holiday and a visit to some foreign schools. The man who can do all that, certainly has got a start from which he ought to make a good race in his professional career. Much of the advice to the young practitioner is admirably shrewd and sensible. The nursing question comes up, and while hospital nurses—disciplined, silent, and ordered, have much praise, the private nurse gets some blame, which is occasionally well-deserved. The questio vexata of professional secrecy is dealt with at great length and with excellent sense. Consultation fees, women doctors, and the out-patient question are all considered from the standpoint of a successful man, who can dispassionately consider these burning questions given above. Dr West’s views on these subjects, and also on the “practitioner’s rewards,” are perhaps too free from the tinge of bitterness and self-pity which would have characterised the treatment of such subjects by a young and struggling practitioner in his fight for a living.

The Practitioner.

Dr Morton, a Boston dentist, administered ether to a patient in the Massachusetts General Hospital on the 16th October 1846, and Dr Warren, the senior surgeon of the Hospital, removed a tumour from the patient’s neck. This year is the jubilee of the
introduction of anaesthesia, and the Practitioner has taken part in its commemoration by devoting its pages to the subject.

Within two years of the introduction of ether, chloroform had not only been introduced, but had almost universally superseded it,—a curious fact which can only be explained on the ground that it was found much more convenient for administration, and, in the hands of its administrators, a safe anaesthetic. Sir B. Ward Richardson said of chloroform that "the word became so common in the vernacular that the people began to recognise it as synonymous with and more expressive than anaesthesia."

The pages of the Practitioner on this occasion seem to bear this out, as, although this year is the jubilee of ether, the tenor of the articles is a comparison between ether and chloroform, with, however, the balance of favour almost wholly towards ether as the safer and better routine anaesthetic. This method of writing is unfortunate, as the articles are rather popular than scientific, we might almost say prejudiced expressions of opinion, not impartial statements of fact. Mr Fred. W. Hewitt and Mr Rowell contribute interesting articles,—the former upon the Past, Present, and Future of Anaesthesia, and the latter upon the work of Simpson, Snow, Lister, and the Hyderabad Commission. The latter article is a fair and excellent summary of the work done by those pioneers in chloroform, but the "summary of present knowledge" "that chloroform is a dangerous drug because of its deleterious effect upon the heart," is a statement based upon the researches of Dr Macwilliam and Drs Gaskell and Shore, and is in direct antagonism to the views and beliefs of the writers whose work he describes, and seems to be merely dragged into the article with a view to condemn chloroform, "which is not the most desirable drug for routine use." So, too, Mr Bailey, although describing ether administration, finishes the article by contrasting ether and chloroform. Mr Shield has an article upon the "Need for better Instruction in the Administration of Anaesthetics," and throughout cannot get away from the allusion to chloroform as equivalent to anaesthesia. That thorough training in both the theory and practice of anaesthetics is imperative is more or less admitted by all teachers of surgery, and the necessity for this is nowhere more recognised than in Scotland, but the articles in question might almost be taken as an attack upon all chloroformists, and in particular upon those schools which especially uphold chloroform as a valuable anaesthetic. Thus on page 388 the example taken is chloroform, although it is of anaesthetics he speaks. The ignorance of anaesthesia to which he refers is certainly not manifested, as far as our experience goes, north of the Tweed.

The laudatory biographies at the end of the journal are well merited by the benefactors to mankind whose lives are shortly, but appreciatively outlined.

The editor has done well to devote the pages of the journal to anaesthesia on this the jubilee year of the introduction of ether,
but we feel that a better selection of matter might easily have been attained, and that a more impartial and higher-toned series would have graced the occasion more.

The Journal of Experimental Medicine. Vol. I., No. III. New York.

This number contains several very interesting papers, and maintains the high promise of the Journal. Drs Abel and Davis have subjected the pigment of the negro's skin and hair to an exhaustive examination, and conclude that it is free or almost entirely free from iron, that it is not a derivative of haemoglobin, that it is identical in kind with that found in the skin of the white races, and that its function is to protect the corium from inflammation by absorbing the chemical energy of the sun's rays. Dr Bradley finds that the large cysts of the thyroid gland which have fluid contents are generally of hemorrhagic origin. Dr Abbott gives a careful study of one of the pathogenic spirilla present in American surface waters, which in the event of an outbreak of cholera might give rise to confusion and error from their likeness to the cholera spirillum. He has also studied the effect of acute alcoholic intoxication on the power of resistance of rabbits to various organisms. The resistance to staphylococcus aureus is but slightly diminished, that to bacillus coli communis to a greater extent, while alcoholized rabbits infected with the streptococcus of erysipelas showed powers of resistance much below the normal, an observation very much in line with that of clinical experience with regard to alcoholics. Drs Adler and Meltzer, in their studies on absorption, find that solutions of drugs like strychnine are removed from the peritoneum by the lymphatics, and that these seem to be generally the path of absorption. Strychnine is absorbed best in the rabbit by the pharynx, then by the rectum, and then by the small intestine, while it is not absorbed at all by the stomach so long as the pylorus is kept closed. Prussic acid is at once absorbed from the stomach.

There are other papers on the production of diphtheria antitoxin by the passage of electricity through cultures; on the presence of antitoxin in the blood of uninjected horses; on the way in which systematic exercise favours the growth of American naval cadets; and on the organisms which cause death by intercurrent infection in patients suffering from chronic cardiac, renal, and hepatic diseases.

A Manual for Hospital Nurses and others engaged in attending on the Sick. By Edward J. Domville, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., etc., Lecturer and Examiner to the St John's Ambulance Association. Eighth Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill: 1896.

When a work is in its eighth edition, it is generally fairly
independent of reviewers and all their evil words. This book is written by a practical surgeon in a pleasant simple style, and contains a large amount of most valuable information for hospital nurses.

Where all or nearly all is so good, criticism may seem unkind. Still there are some points that might be altered with advantage, wet hink, in subsequent editions. Under points for observation by a nurse, some are included which really belong in hospital to the province of the clinical-clerk or house-surgeon, or in private practice to the surgeon himself—and it is a puzzle how a short note on Cheyne-Stokes respiration has got into this section. The division on Accidents and Emergencies is quite excellent, brief yet full, indicating practical experience in every sentence. Surely in the chapter on Operations some old instructions have been left and mixed up with new material. Sponges at operations still remain. In two contiguous pages, the parts are directed to be shaved to save annoyance to the patient by his strapping sticking to the hair. What about antiseptic preparations? must not the hair be removed as a routine preliminary. Then why has the nurse to count the ligatures at an amputation, or collect their ends and fix them to a corner of the wound by strips of sticking plaster? It makes one rub one's eyes, and try to remember the pre-historic days. In treatment of hernia, too, surely it must be a relic from the first edition to read "that the surgeon first tries the taxis—that is to say, he tries to reduce it by manipulation; if he is unsuccessful, the patient is put into a hot bath or under chloroform and trial again made; if failure again result, there is no hope of relief being given without recourse to a cutting operation"!

(p. 66). In the 19th line of p. 86, an unnecessary comma makes nonsense, and on p. 87 we are told the normal temperature of the body is $98 \frac{3}{4}^\circ$.

Sickroom cookery and a glossary are useful appendices to this unpretending work.

Wright's Improved Visiting Lists for 1897. Bristol: John Wright & Co.

No general practitioner or consultant could wish a more convenient, complete, or better got up visiting list than Wright's. Three forms are published,—the weekly, the interleaved for 1897 which enables a month's record to be kept, and the interleaved perpetual form. The visiting lists likewise contain much useful information, clearly and concisely put. The volumes should keep up their well-deserved popularity.