laboured discussion of the subject follows, which we do not propose to enter upon.

Chapter XXIV continues the further discussion of this question; it is "On the Sources of Hæmorrhage during Miscarriage or Labour at Full Term in cases of Placenta Prævia." This very interesting subject appears to be still surrounded with considerable obscurity. Dr. Duncan somewhat favours the view that the circular sinus of the placenta is a frequent source.

Chapter XXV deals likewise with placenta prævia. It is "On the Mechanism of Arrestment of Hæmorrhage in cases of Placenta Prævia." This is pretty fully discussed, but we do not think we can profitably dwell upon it.

We next come to the appendix of the book, which comprises Dr. Duncan's address in obstetric medicine at the Norwich meeting of the British Medical Association in 1874. Beginning with an able plea for the division of labour, the author next goes on to enforce the importance of method. He then directs attention to the importance of mechanism, the scientific value of which he rightly proclaims. Important as a knowledge of the mechanism of normal parturition is, the writer admits that a knowledge of that of morbid parturition is more eagerly sought after by the bulk of practitioners, but he laments the absence of secure guidance in this matter. Notwithstanding all the able writings and teachings on this important subject we are still, he says, without the knowledge we require. Still more difficult than the foregoing are natural and morbid childbirth.

Dr. Duncan's address has been so recently given to the world, and doubtless has been so widely read, that we content ourselves with this brief mention of it.

In conclusion we may say that this volume of collected papers confirms the general belief that Dr. Duncan deservedly stands in the foremost rank of past or present scientific obstetricians.

Steiner on Children's Diseases.¹—Fifteen years of uninterrupted activity in the Children's Hospital at Prague have encouraged and given some claim to the author to write this treatise. It professes to be a compendium of children's diseases, a trustworthy guide to the student as well as the practitioner.

The mere fact of a second edition of the work having been called for within three years of its first appearance is a sufficient guarantee of its appreciation by the profession in Germany, and has doubtless influenced the translator in selecting it as worthy of being

¹ Compendium of Children's Diseases: a Handbook for Practitioners and Students. By Dr. Johann Steiner. Translated from the second German edition. By Lawson Tait, F.R.C.S. London, 1874.
presented to the profession in England in the language best suited to the wants of practitioners.

The author has arranged his subject under nine divisions: the first comprising the Investigation of Disease; the second, Diseases of the Nervous System; the third, Diseases of the Organs of Respiration; the fourth, Diseases of the Organs of Circulation and of the Lymphatic System; the fifth, Diseases of the Organs of Digestion; the sixth, Diseases of the Urinary and Sexual Organs; the seventh, General Diseases of Nutrition; the eighth, Zymotic Diseases; the ninth, Diseases of the Skin.

Under the first heading, the Investigation of Disease, the author very rightly observes that "the absence of speech, the uncertainty of the communications concerning the subjective disturbances of the conditions of health, the wilfulness, dislikes, fear, and agitation of the child, make an inquiry difficult or even impossible; and this is so much the more if the practitioner does not understand how to win for himself the confidence of the patient."

Under "Diseases of the Nervous System" are included Diseases of the Brain and its Membranes, and of the Spinal Cord and its Membranes. The subject is treated very exhaustively, all the known varieties of nervous disorders being briefly referred to, and the researches of those who have directed attention to the pathology of special lesions being incorporated in the text so as to bring the subject quite up to date.

Epilepsy is grouped among Diseases of the Spinal Cord and its Membranes, though the author in treating of the subject remarks that "post-mortem examinations have revealed so many various essential alterations that the conclusion has been arrived at that there has been no specific lesion by which the disease can be accounted for." He regards epilepsy as a common disease of childhood. In speaking of treatment, no mention is made of what measures should be adopted during a fit, nor any restrictions given as to diet, exercise, &c. We fear the practitioner would be somewhat disappointed when referring to this chapter for any hints or indications for treatment; indeed, the whole subject is very cursorily treated.

In the chapter devoted to Diseases of the Organs of Respiration the various conditions met with are duly given. In speaking of catarrh in early life sufficient importance is scarcely accorded to the syphilitic coryza so often met with, and which is too frequently mistaken by the unwary for a mere cold in the head. The advantage of administering mercury through the mother's milk is not alluded to, and the propriety of abstaining from baths in the case of infants, merely because they have idiopathic nasal catarrh, is, in our judgment, of doubtful expediency. The description of croup is evidently drawn from frequent observation of this distressing malady, and is given with clear, minute, and circumstantial detail. The author
does not agree with those who regard ordinary inflammatory croup as infectious, though he believes there can be no doubt that the diphtheritic variety is eminently contagious. He states that 34.6 per cent. of the cases in the Children's Hospital at Prague have been saved by the operation of tracheotomy.

He depends chiefly on inhalations and emetics, the most useful of the former in his experience being lime-water, and ipecacuanha for the latter. Tracheotomy, he observes, constitutes of itself no remedy against the croup, but by giving nature time to bring about more favorable conditions it is often of great importance.

The translator has supplemented a manifest defect in dealing with this subject, by giving an account of the after-treatment required; and, as we should have expected, it is practical and thorough. We regret he has not made the chapter complete by giving the details of the operation itself, for we feel confident it would have been much valued by many a young practitioner.

The subject of foreign bodies in the air-passages is somewhat summarily dismissed; considering the frequency and danger of this accident, a more detailed account would have been acceptable.

Hooping-cough is described at some length. He regards it as an epidemic, neurotic contagious bronchial catarrh, accompanied by spasmodic attacks of coughing. Belladonna is recommended as the drug most likely to be of service. No notice is given of chloral, which in severe cases has been proved to check the severity and lessen the frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, as also to induce sleep and allay the distressing vomiting so frequently met with in this disorder.

In speaking of phthisis, the author supports the tubercular, pneumonic, and bronchitic origin of this malady.

In pleurisy, "when symptoms of suffocation occur from the extreme amount of effusion, the chest must be tapped without loss of time," remarks the author; though, "if the pleurisy should become purulent and the symptoms become unfavorable, thoracentesis must be performed; though very frequently the natural efforts will create an exit" (pp. 173-4). An earlier resort to thoracentesis, as advocated by Bowditch, Playfair, and others, together with the plan of subaqueous drainage, seem justified by recent experience, and are points of great importance in the management of these troublesome cases.

In speaking also of pericarditis with effusion, "the operation of tapping the pericardium has not been largely adopted" (p. 163) is all that is said; no mention is made of paracentesis as practised by Aran, as also by Sibson and numerous others, successfully. From the very nature of the operation, its difficulties and dangers, and the responsibility attached to its performance, it is not very likely "to be largely adopted;" still, in many cases, it is of extreme
value, not only in relieving most urgent distress, but also in saving many a life that otherwise would inevitably be lost.

The preliminary observations on the nourishment of children are well worthy of perusal and evidence much practical knowledge, though it is a question whether "sickly and rachitic children require to be kept longer at the breast than those which are healthy" (p. 196). It frequently happens that the children are sickly or rachitic because the maternal milk is not sufficiently nourishing, and a change to good healthy cow's milk often works wonders.

The remarks on cleft palate will scarcely meet with the approval of the rising surgeons of the present generation. The translator even appends a foot-note, entering a protest against the author's conclusions.

Diphtheria is evidently a subject the author has seen much of; he writes currente calamo.

Lime-water, either as inhalation by means of a spray-producer, or locally applied, is, according to the author's experience, the best remedy for cutting short the exudation and the necrobiosis, and preventing the absorption of the poisonous matter.

The recent controversy in the medical journals respecting diphtheria and croup seems unnecessary, if we can rely on the differential diagnosis given by the author:—"True croupous exudation is free and membranous, whilst the diphtheritic is parenchymatous with necrobiosis."

Gangrenous stomatitis, described by the author as norma, seems to be more frequent abroad than at home, if we may judge from the fact of no less than 102 cases having been observed, only four of which recovered. Stomatomykosis is the name suggested for the ordinary parasitic aphthae affecting the mouth of infants; lime-water and borax are the remedies relied upon. The remarks on dentition and its dangers are practical. No mention is made of the employment of chloral, which in many of the distressing nervous symptoms due to the irruption of the teeth is invaluable, and far to be preferred to any preparations of opium. In treating of invagination, or intussusception, "gastrotomy as a last resource may be entertained;" but distension of the bowel by air or fluids with the prospect of relieving the obstruction is not referred to—rather an important omission, judged by the standard of recent experience.

In speaking of parenchymatous nephritis, the author says, "The presence of hyaline casts must be proved ere the diagnosis can be made with certainty (p. 276.) The importance of producing diaphoresis by means of vapour baths is not insisted upon with sufficient force. The employment of chalybeates in the later stage of convalescence is not even alluded to.

The author has evidently not seen the cases published by Mr. John Wood of successful operation for the cure of ectopia vesicæ,
or he would not assert that "a radical cure of this deformity is hardly possible" (p. 283).

We are glad to find Dr. Steiner has not shirked the duty of alluding to a very distressing practice indulged in by even very young children of both sexes, viz. masturbation. This is far more frequent than many have any idea of, and exerts an influence upon the growing child very prejudicial to its future well-being, intellectually, morally and physically.

"The use of sewing-machines, which has become of late so prevalent, has an evil influence in this direction," he thinks, "especially for young girls; and he has heard several times from women expressions of opinion in this direction." The employment of blistering, repeated from time to time, one of the most efficacious means of dealing with this habit, is not sufficiently insisted on.

The subject here briefly touched upon, although one of vital importance, is generally remitted to the domain of neutral territory. In no work that we are familiar with on children's diseases, Dr. Steiner's excepted, is the question discussed; the general treatises on medicine seldom even allude to it, and only when the final stage, dementia, is attained do we find it figuring in the reports of our asylums as a probable cause of mental defect. It is doubtless a difficult question to handle, but that is no reason for deterring us from making the attempt to rescue it from the hands of quacks and unprincipled adventurers who trade upon the baser passions of our nature.

Parents have no suspicion in many instances why a child is so listless and apathetic, so disinclined for exertion and so easily tired; the medical man is consulted, but from the difficulty of getting any facts and from a wish to avoid injuring the feelings of the parents, few inquiries are made; and whatever may be his suspicions, nothing is said, a tonic is prescribed, and the boy drifts on into confirmed onanism, becoming weak and vacillating, an easy prey to the advertising quacks.

Under the heading, General Diseases of Nutrition, a full description is given of rickets, scrofula, tuberculosis, purpura, and rheumatism.

Syphilis, which by nearly every authority is grouped among the general or diathetic diseases, is here classed with the zymotic diseases, along with the exanthemata, cholera, &c. Dr. Steiner affirms that rickety children often have a precocious mental development, and are restless, irritable, and easily excited (p. 309). Respecting the latter clause, doubtless, it is correct; but, as a general rule, the rickety child is far below the average in mental capacity, though there may be no symptoms of idiocy.

The author refers to the influence of syphilis, struma, unhealthy occupations, and sexual excesses in the parents, as forming a very
important cause in the production of rickets among children, more especially when the mother has been subject to their influence.

The method adopted in speaking of scrofula will approve itself to the student, the subject being treated of seriatim under the different organs affected, as lymphatic glands, skin, mucous membrane, bones, joints, &c.

The relation of tubercle to scrofula he regards as still far from being definitely determined. If not identical, they are diseases which are very closely related in their causes, in their pathology, and in their clinical history; and, though they often occur coincidentally or in sequence, it is not a matter of necessity that they should do so.

A combination of the tubercular and syphilitic diatheses in the parents he regards as strongly favouring a tendency to scrofula, and the too early employment of starchy food, or too great excess of it in the dietary, is doubtless sufficient to explain a large number of cases.

The treatment suggested, both general and local, is clear and comprehensive. "For the affections of bones and joints some special surgical treatise had better be consulted" (p. 325).

The most important factor in the production of tuberculosis the author regards as hereditary tendency; but the disease may be developed independently by bad sanitary conditions, and also by the embolic impaction (Einschwemmung) of purulent and cheesy matter. The various theories with regard to this interesting subject of Buhl, Virchow, Waldenburg, Cohnheim, Frankel, Klebs, Villemin, Niemeyer, and Schüppel, are briefly referred to.

The bronchial glands were found to be affected in 275, the lungs in 175 only of the cases observed by the author. The main points in the treatment are briefly glanced at. "Cod-liver oil, when it can be borne, and the whey treatment, are our most efficient methods of cure, but unfortunately they very seldom effect it" (p. 330).

Purpura is classed among the general diseases of nutrition, and very rightly so, for we generally find a history of "insufficient and improper food, together with residence in cold, damp, and badly ventilated dwellings," which unquestionably exert a considerable influence in the production of purpura, though it may be also secondary to some other disease, as the author points out. A special form of this dyscrasia, indicated by Schönlein—peliosis rheumatica—is here referred to. The symptoms are lassitude and pain in the joints, these latter being swollen and very painful, especially on being moved, and they present all the appearance of joints affected by acute articular rheumatism. These symptoms last from two to four days, and are then followed by the appearance of a petechial eruption.

The section on zymotic diseases is clearly and concisely written,
though we miss many useful suggestions as regards the treatment of complications. In scarlatina, *e.g.* “if uræmic symptoms appear, quinine in large doses and cold packing will be found of service.” No reference is made to vapour baths, diaphoretics, or cathartics. Quinine, digitalis, and the mineral acids are the remedies chiefly relied upon in reducing the temperature in the exanthemata.

Of 420 children suffering from smallpox, 315 had not been vaccinated, and 208 died, or 66 per cent.; whilst of the 105 vaccinated only 14 died, or 13 per cent. Of 12,000 vaccinations performed in the Prague Hospital no case of communication of other diseases by the agency of the vaccine virus is known. These statistics will doubtless be interesting to the anti-vaccinationists.

The section devoted to diseases of the skin is scarcely so comprehensive as we should have expected, though the more important and most frequent of these diseases are mentioned, and the general indications for treatment given. The author puts forth a fact worthy of notice in speaking of eczema. More than a thousand cases having come under his observation, local treatment, without respect to their duration or extent, was almost always resorted to, and he is not aware of any fatal case having occurred during or after such treatment. He does not agree with those who recommend abstention from local treatment, lest the curing of the rash induce mischief of a more serious kind, as meningitis, hydrocephalus, &c.

A few words as to the manner in which the translator has accomplished his task are all that is necessary. On comparison with the German the translator will be found to be as literal as the different construction of the two languages would admit of; the sense or meaning of the original being invariably given, even when some transposition was necessary to suit the English idiom.

“All thermometric observations have been rendered in the centigrade scale, and all measurements in centi- and millimètres.” This will possibly prove a little confusing at present to the English reader, who will be at a loss to understand how long a child who measures forty-nine centimètres really is, no table showing the relation between the two measurements being given—a decided want. Again, “the weight of the body of a new-born child averages from 3 to 4000 grammes” (p. 2) is a statement that will puzzle many.

It would have been well also to have anglicised some of the expressions employed, *e.g.* if retraction of one lower extremity occur, “then gonitis, coxitis, or psoriasis may be suspected” (p. 3).

In all material points, however, the English version loses nothing from its translation, and gains much by a few judicious interpolations.

In many respects the book is one that the student and junior practitioner will be glad to refer to, but more as a classical than as a clinical memoir. We miss the details regarding treatment that we are familiar with in West and Tanner. The indications are too
vague to satisfy the wants of most students or young practitioners. There is no appendix of formulae, and very few instructions as to what combination of drugs or what doses are requisite. We have given a sufficient account to enable the reader to form a fair idea of the value of the work. It is printed in a clear readable type, and in every respect does credit to its well-known publishers.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics—Vegetable Kingdom. 1—The work which now lies before us is one with which it is not easy to deal. It contains much which is new and has been highly commended, but the greater part of the new material is of the most questionable character, whilst we make bold to say that the majority of those who have commended the work have hardly been in a position to do so from a thorough knowledge of the subject. The newer matter, indeed, is almost wholly taken from two sources, the later German researches and homeopathic literature. The opportunity of bringing much interesting matter from the German before the British profession depends in great measure on the remissness of former writers in the same field; even the author himself seems ignorant that very much of the material available in the Brothers Husemann Pflanzen-Stoffe, which he uses so extensively, is to be found in a work which he does not refer to once, viz. the same brothers' edition of Van Hasselt's toxicology, now nearly twenty years before the world.

As to the rest of this new matter, it is neither more nor less than pure homoeopathy preached in the ordinary bungling homoeopathic manner, and this we are prepared to show. The source of this knowledge is not far to seek. Dr. Phillips was long known as a prominent homoeopathic practitioner, but by degrees he became more and more separated from the homoeopaths, until at last he was formally reconciled to old physic by being admitted a member of the Clinical Society. Such being the case, there are good grounds for animadversion on the part of homoeopaths, who most justly say, here is a man preaching pure homoeopathy, and yet his teachings are accepted with something approaching to admiration by the body of the profession. We confess we here hold with the complainants, for this is certain; either Dr. Phillips's teaching must be rejected, or homoeopathy and old physic become one and the same; the only distinction of any importance left is the dose, in which again the two opposing bodies are rapidly converging. But there is one characteristic of the educated men of our section of the profession, a characteristic which, we trust, will ever steadily continue, and this assuredly tends to separate them from ordinary homoeopaths. To us is given a pathology which we seek after more and more as a basis

1 Materia Medica and Therapeutics—Vegetable Kingdom. By CHARLES D. P. PHILLIPS, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. London. Pp. 584.