author. We are also astonished to find the author still impervious to enlightenment in respect to the manner in which the cervix behaves during pregnancy, and as to the mode in which the placenta is separated (pp. 98, 99). But with all its faults the work possesses very many excellencies.

We have at present an agitation on foot in this country for the registration of midwives.

Would it not be serving that very valuable branch of the community better, were any ambitious young obstetrician, who had time and ability at command, to translate Schultze's book for the use of English midwives.

We humbly think, that putting such a sensible and judicious work within their reach would be worth more to them and their patients than many registers, and therefore we hope this may be done some day soon.

A Guide to Therapeutics. By Robert Farquharson, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., Lecturer on Materia Medica at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, etc. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.: 1877.

This work will be read with interest alike by students and medical practitioners. It is wholly devoted to therapeutics as distinct from materia medica. On this account it can never form a text-book to students without the aid of some other text-book treating of materia medica properly so called. The tendency in the present day is to separate these two branches of medical education, and were this successfully accomplished in all our medical schools, an important step would be gained in the teaching of medical science. The plan of this book is thus stated by the author:

"Our object will be to balance, as far as possible, their physiological against their therapeutical action, arranging them in corresponding columns in diagrammatic form; and it will greatly assist this arrangement, as well as aid the memory of the student, if we adopt the following order in stating what we know respecting the properties of each drug:

"Take, first, its local or external action. Then its influence on the brain, and on the spinal and sympathetic system of nerves.

"This will lead us up gradually to the effects on the heart and bloodvessels, whose functions are presided over, and ruled by, nervous influence.

"The effects of the drug on respiration and temperature will next be considered, and we then proceed to the alterations of secretion in the following order:—urinary, intestinal, salivary, cutaneous, etc.

"Then other actions which come under no heading, and which may be called specific.

"Finally, we must consider the various modes of elimination from the body, the antidotes, contra-indications, and best modes of prescribing."

Such is the plan which Dr Farquharson has sketched out for himself, and he has adhered to it remarkably well. Both the
physiological and the therapeutical actions of the various medicines are, as a rule, succinctly and correctly stated. After going over the various drugs of the British Pharmacopoeia, the author introduces a chapter on "Non-officinal Preparations," including such substances as "actaea racemosa, eucalyptus globulus, gelsemium sempervirens, Goa powder, jaborandi, sanguinaria, salicin, salicylic acid, and trimethylamine,"—all of them substances of considerable importance.

Fully half a page is devoted to the consideration of the following important substances:—tea, coffee, guarana, coca. The author might with advantage have enlarged on the therapeutic value of these substances. Is Dr. Farquharson quite sure that coca contains the alkaloid caffein?

The book contains a very good introductory chapter on the general principles of therapeutics. At page 7 Dr. Farquharson surely falls into an inconsistency when he says:

"Anthelminotics are always best given after as long a fast as possible, so that the parasites which they attack may not be shielded by food or mucus, and we find in practice that night, just before bedtime, is the most convenient period for their administration." If the anthelminthic was administered in the morning, would it not be given after a much longer fast than when given "before bedtime"?

We have much pleasure in highly recommending this Guide to all our readers.

Lectures on Surgical Anatomy. By John Chiene, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S. Ed., Lecturer on Surgery, Edinburgh School of Medicine, etc. Illustrated by Thirty-one Plates, drawn on Stone, by Charles Berjeau, from original Dissections. David Douglas: Edinburgh: 1878.

The student of the day is a very fortunate man. He has a great deal done for him, and if he has much more to learn than his predecessors of a former generation, he certainly has much more chances of being taught—many active young teachers, each anxious to have many pupils, and each doing his best to make the road to learning smooth and pleasant.

This little book is one of many in late years which aim at guiding the student in seeing the bearings of his dissection, helping him to bring together the facts of anatomy and the principles of surgery.

Holden's Surgical Landmarks and Bellamy's Surgical Anatomy have done for the London student what, in emulation of them, is being done for the Edinburgh School.

As anatomical facts and relations do not vary, it is not very easy to be original in such a work, which really must vary from the other