

Miscellaneous.

too large a proportion of American medical students have learned all they know of the anatomy of the human frame from this great work. We do not hereby mean to imply that we would discourage the use of Gray; but there is another book—the book of Nature—which should first be diligently studied, whereof Gray is a reflex and compendium to be used merely as a reminiscence and assistant. This last edition presents all the merits of its predecessors with some of its own in addition. Every one should have it, and value it by using it as not abusing it. The liability to abuse lies not so much in the book itself as in short-termed curricula and high pressure graduation. Holden's Landmarks are without a peer, and their embodiment in the volume was greatly in the student's interest.

A Pocket Book of Physical Diagnosis of the Diseases of the Heart and Lungs. For the Student and Practitioner. By Dr. Edward T. Bruen. Second edition. Revised, with additional illustrations. Price \$1.50. Phila. : P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1012 Walnut Street.

The title page of this *multum in parvo*, takes cognizance of the fact that the physician needs brushing up on physical diagnosis and silently classes him with the student. This is no doubt a matter of common observation in the city of Brotherly Love, of Polyclinics, and Post-Graduates, —and here in Canada—here well—we, are no better off. Our magnificent schools also fail, sometimes, in turning out physicians *ad unguem*. Occasionally a student keeps his four terms, passes his examinations, takes his degree, and precipitates himself upon a too confiding public to find that he is lacking in just that amount of requisite polish which books of the nature of the one under consideration can give, and we are thankful to have it at hand.

Dr. Bruen divides his work into two parts, Of the Lungs, and Of the Heart and Pericardium, preceding the whole with a comprehensive introduction describing the thorax and its contained viscera and closing with tables of reference touching the dimensions of the healthy heart taken from Dr. Peacock's Croonian Lecture.

We can heartily commend the work to our readers, feeling sure that they will find in it information which they seek, facts which they have forgotten, and perhaps some things they have not known.

ANATOMY may be considered as a subject not lightly to be laid aside during the whole period of college life, and no man has yet acknowledged that he has dissected too much. The purely scientific studies being disposed of, the subjects which next most profitably engage attention may broadly be said to embrace the theories and principles upon which all but the most empirical medicine is based. Now is the time when the scientific physician takes shape: when a knowledge of organic function, whether physiological or pathological, is obtained; when the principles, apart from the practice, of medicine and surgery can be taught, and the foundations laid deep and strong for the gradual rearing of a goodly building, the stones for which will be picked up in the last or third stage of the course, when a practical acquaintance is made with disease. The sound physiologist readily profits by the teaching of the pathological laboratory, and, provided with such knowledge, passes easily into an acquaintance with the laws underlying all pure medicine and surgery, as well as the actions of drugs in health and disease. It is perhaps difficult for the student adequately to recognise the importance of teaching, which to his eyes seems but distantly connected with the cure of disease; but it is at the particular stage in his studies which we have now reached when general principles can be laid hold of, and the scientific method made applicable to the whole work of his future career both at college and in practice. The difference is here established between the class of men who subsequently become animated posological tables, backed by a set of "cures" for the various ailments, and the modern ideal physician in whose mind's eye is a picture of disease in which all details are found, and embracing the pathological state as well as suggesting the most rational treatment. With a mind trained to observation and reflection, and a thorough acquaintance with the general doctrines applicable in the healing art, the student will find the third, or directly practical, part of his course an easy matter. He must then devote himself to the steadfast observation of disease at the bedside and in the out-door department of his hospital; he will accustom himself to accuracy and speed in the use of his senses and the various