

Book Notices.

Clinical Lecture on Diseases of the Heart and Aorta. By GEORGE WILLIAM BALFOUR, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.). Consulting Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, etc., etc. Third edition. London: Adam & Charles Black. Toronto: The Publishers' Syndicate. 1898.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1875, and the second in 1881. It will at once appear to those who are familiar with the former editions that the present one has been thoroughly revised and re-written. The volume is an exceptionally handsome one, of nearly five hundred pages. The paper is ideal and the type exceeding clear and of good size. The illustrations add much to the usefulness of the work. They are not numerous, but of such a character as to be of the utmost utility to a student of the book.

Dr. Balfour has long been recognized as one—perhaps the leading one—of those who have written upon cardiology. His teachings have been of the utmost value to the profession, as the means of disseminating correct views. His opportunities have been great, and he has made the most of these opportunities.

On reading this work one is at once impressed with the thorough knowledge the author possesses of the literature on his subject. Of the enormous amounts that have been written upon the heart and aorta, nothing seems to have escaped his attention.

The literary finish of the work is fine. It reads like Ruskin, or Lang or Arnold. Yet the thorough-going scientific side is not lost in this fine finish. Indeed, the beautiful style renders the descriptions of the varying conditions very clear and almost simple.

But the strong part of the work is the therapeutics. In the matter of treatment the author utters no uncertain sound. The conditions are laid down with great clearness; and then what ought to be done is stated in the most distinct and positive manner. This is very refreshing.

This is one of the books of which it may truthfully be said every doctor should have a copy. The amount of information between the covers is really marvellous. And all this, as already stated, in so readable a form.