

"centres." Galvanism can only momentarily stimulate upon opening or closing the current; when the current is passing, its electrotype action at once manifests itself.

While agreeing with Ferrier to some extent, the author does not believe in the existence of actual "centres" capable of originating movement.

The book contains a mass of information regarding the cerebral convolutions that is absolutely necessary every medical man who wishes to hold even a mediocre position should know, part of which he will find only in two or three of the most recent works on physiology.

Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia). By GEORGE M. BEARD, M.A., M.D. New York, William Wood & Company, 27 Great Jones street Montreal, Dawson Bros., St. James street.

This is a treatise written by a gentleman who has had great opportunities of gaining experience in nervous affections. It covers the ground fairly well, and adds another link to the chain of investigations that are now taking place in the many hundred manifestations of different nervous diseases.

We may not agree with all the opinions expressed, but we can confidently recommend it to the general practitioner.

Electricity in Medicine and Surgery. By JOHN J. CALDWELL, M.D., Baltimore, Maryland.

This pamphlet is a practical essay on some of the uses of electricity. It is evidently written to extol Kidder's batteries, and, from what we have heard of them, they are not too highly praised.

FOOD AND FOOD-MEDICINES IN SURGERY.

"I have long regarded food as the first of remedies, and have taken it as chief maxim in practice that a return to health lies through a return of the assimilative powers and a desire for natural aliment; that whenever a drug is administered it is but a means to this end; and that, in every instance, its nauseant powers, which are generally certain, are to be weighed against its antidotal virtues, which are, except in few instances, doubtful. * * * * *

"Concerning the virtues of Extract of Malt, which was introduced into this country from

the German pharmacopœia four or five years ago by the "Trommer Extract of Malt Co.," I can speak in a decided manner. An extensive trial of this remedy in the acute and chronic disorders of Surgery, during the past three years, has convinced me that it is a food-medicine of undoubted power, and the general hold it has gained upon the professional mind in America in this period shows that I share a very common opinion in regard to its merits.

"The introduction I had to this remedy was such as to make a lasting impression upon me. In August of 1876 a patient, aged five, in whom I had far more than a professional interest, after a slight indisposition for several days, began to show an elevation in temperature. As this was decidedly periodic, I thought it, of course, to be of malarial origin, and gave myself but little concern about it until I discovered it could not be permanently controlled by quinine. In decided doses the temperature would come down for a day, to rise again the next—reaching a maximum of 101°. Languor, weakness and anorexia increased; within a fortnight cough and bronchitis were established, and the patient was at length forced to keep her bed. As the symptoms did not improve the thought came to me that it was tubercle I had to combat. Oil was rejected, or taken after such a struggle that I substituted Trommer Malt Extract, which about that time was coming into some use in Louisville. Its beneficial effects were apparent in a very short time. The temperature speedily came down and remained down, the cough disappeared, and in a fortnight the child was at play. Whatever was the name of the disease, it was one of malnutrition; and I have always thought that what was or might have been the development of tubercle was arrested by the malt and milk upon which alone the child was kept after the first futile attempts to arrest the disease with anti-periodics.

"With such an introduction as this, of course I was led to use it in practice, and there are few accidents or diseases of Surgery in which I have not tested its virtues—so much so, in fact, that I fear their enumeration will sound much like an index." * * * *Extracts from paper by Richard O. Cowling, A.M., M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Surgery, University of Louisville, in the Louisville Medical News.*