

waite has, with a great additional amount of self imposed labour, given every second year, a general index to the preceding four volumes of the Retrospect, but even this by no means meets the demands upon this valuable encyclopedia of modern practice, as far as time is concerned. It has sometimes cost us hours of search to get at what we required, with every simplification furnished by the original itself. We cannot, therefore, but hail Dr. Well's Epitome as a most valuable addition, not only to every library possessing a copy of the original work, but to every practitioner who wishes to seize with eagle glance upon the current literature, on any given topic connected with Medicine, Surgery or Midwifery, the three most important branches of our profession.

The subjects treated are all alphabetically arranged, and the first part terminates with "Cancerous affections," under the letter C. The other parts will proceed in like order, and an abstract of each paper under its especial caption is given, commencing with the first volume and ending with the last.

Braithwaite's Retrospect is beyond all comparison, one of the best digests of the medical literature of the day, and the Epitome, if the future parts are carried out in the manner of the one before us, will prove a still more valuable one if such can possibly be.

As we are in a critical vein at the present moment, we would suggest to the editor the propriety of omitting the article "an" before the word "addenda" in the title, or (what meets the same object), the substitution of the word "addendum" for "addenda" in it. It is an awkward grammatical error to meet in the title of a professedly classic work, and it is much to be regretted that printers will, despite every precaution, take such monstrous liberties with the manuscripts of authors. With the typographical execution of the work otherwise, we have no fault to find; it is in fact every thing we could desire. It is almost absurd to imagine that we could obtain for five dollars, the substance of Braithwaite's forty volumes, the English edition of which costs between fifteen and twenty pounds; yet nevertheless such is fact.

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ART. XVI.—*The half yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences*, being a practical and analytical digest of the contents of the principal British, American, and Continental medical works, published during the preceding six months, &c., &c., edited by W. H. Ranking, M. D., and C. B. Radcliffe, M. D. July to December, 1859. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston. Montreal: B. Dawson and Son, 1860, 8vo. pp. 303.

The foregoing is the American reprint of Ranking's valuable serial, and appears to be a faithful copy of the original. The work is too well known to the profession to need any commendation of ours. Like Braithwaite's Retrospect, it contains the most valuable portion of the medical literature of the preceding six months, and this number completes the thirtieth volume. Attached to this number we notice a rather singularly written letter to the profession, from Dr. Ignatius Langer, who, without alluding in the slightest degree to Dr. Wood's experiments on Hypodermic injection, seems to lay claim to a priority in the practice,