

## Reviews and Notices of Books.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE DIAGNOSIS, PATHOLOGY, AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE HEART. By AUSTIN FLINT, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Clinical Medicine, Bellevue Hospital, New York. H. C. Lea, Philadelphia, 1879.

When we consider how important it is to be familiar with diseases of the heart, so that the functional disturbances may be distinguished readily from what are rightly termed organic affections of that organ, and how very frequently, in every-day practice, heart diseases occur, it is pleasing to be able to announce a new edition of a previous work by a very able writer, Prof. Austin Flint, of New York, devoted specially to that subject. Beginning with the various forms of enlargement of the heart and the affections of its walls, he goes on to the subject of valvular diseases, and describes congenital malformations. A chapter is devoted to such affections as are incidental to diseases of the heart; as for instance, coagulation of fibrine within the cavities of the heart, angina pectoris, and several other morbid states, more or less frequently associated with cardiac disease. Inflammatory diseases of the heart, as pericarditis and endocarditis, with myocarditis, receive their full share of attention, the various points connected with the diagnosis of these diseases being specially dwelt upon, and the treatment recommended being of a very practical and common-sense kind. Functional diseases are carefully and fully described, and the many points of similarity between functional and organic disease, which so often lead the ignorant and careless into sad blunders, are pointed out, and clear instructions given, so that errors in diagnosis and prognosis, so discreditable and often so injurious to those who make them, may be avoided. The volume before us closes with a chapter on aortic diseases, and gives much information as to thoracic aneurisms. Of course the bulk of this is to be found in other works on the subject; but Professor Flint has a practical way of treating every subject, which makes his writings of great value; and to any one who wishes to possess a full and accurate knowledge of the morbid affections of the heart, this work will be found of the greatest service.

## Miscellaneous, &c.

### The American Medical Association.

"We give the report of the proceedings of the National Medical Association, held in May last, at the National Capitol, as given in the New York *Medical Gazette*:

"Twenty-one years ago this Association was organized with the best wishes and highest hopes of the medical profession. What has it done in all that time? Year by year it has dwindled, until

the hopes of its founders have ended in shame and humiliation. No subject of higher consideration than the fee that should be charged for examination for life insurance companies, or the color of the skin requisite to membership to medical societies was definitely settled.

"The proceedings upon the whole would do credit to some Trade's Union Convention, and its objects seem to have been no higher. If the profession at large has been deteriorating as fast as this national association during the same time, may God have mercy on us!

"The Association did agree upon one other thing, which fills us with apprehension. It resolved upon the solicitation of some physician, who was at Washington on some lobby business connected with a hospital contract, who, it seems, had credentials sent to him by the so-called San Francisco Medical Society, to invite them—to meet next year in this city.

"We shall be glad to see them, we will show them the Seal Rock, Woodward's Gardens, our magnificent and unique City and County Hospital, and do the best we can to make their stay as pleasant as possible. The San Francisco Medical Society will furnish a steamer to take them about our beautiful harbor. The President of the San Francisco Medical Society will be delighted to take them to Yo-Semite Valley; his overflowing wine-cellar will make their hearts glad; but we hope the 'nigger question' will not be raised here, for we are not all white. Some Caucasian physicians, too, do attend African patients, and the question might be raised—but we will not borrow trouble, 'sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.'—*Cal. Med. Gazette*.—*Med. and Surg. Jour*

### Probable Duration of Pregnancy.

In the course of an action for damages for the seduction of a young woman, the question of the possibly protracted duration of gestation was raised. The alleged father had had no access to the mother of the child later than 301 days before its birth, and he naturally disputed his liability. Dr. Tanner deposed that the ordinary period was 270 to 280 days; but might be exceeded by 2, 3, or even 4 weeks. He thought there was no inconsistency in the present case (from April 15 to Feb. 9—that is, 301 days). He had not known any case himself in which the ordinary period had been exceeded by a week, but he had no doubt there were such cases. He had heard of such. Mr. James F. Clark deposed that there were on record cases extending over 310 days. Sir James Simpson had recorded a case of 310 days. Dr. Barnes deposed that the ordinary period was 271 days. He had known cases 280 and 285 days. He thought it very improbable, but did not like to say it was impossible, for gestation to extend over 301 days. It was so improbable that he did not believe it. Dr. Tyler Smith said that the longest period of excess he had known was a fortnight. Dr. Reid—a most accurate observer—has recorded forty-three cases of protraction, the longest of which was 330 days. Dr. Smith considered that case as reliable as any doubtful case could be. The verdict was for the plaintiff; damages, £209.—*British Medical Journal*—*N. O. Jour. of Med.*