

and well calculated to encourage a more strict and logical method of reasoning on medical subjects. We are glad to find that American physicians are now occupied in bringing out original treatises, and not, as heretofore, expending their talents and time in republishing editions of British works, of which their own notes and observations, not unfrequently, constitute the only valuable portions. And we have much pleasure in acknowledging that the work of Dr. Stillé is, in our opinion, superior to any other on the same subject in the English language with which we are familiar.

The two publications which we have noticed, do great credit to the publishers. Their typographical execution is exceedingly neat, and the paper excellent.

ART. XXXVIII.—*Lectures on Yellow Fever, its Causes, Pathology, and Treatment*; by J. HASTINGS, M.D., United States Navy, Philadelphia, 1848, pp. 69.

After seeing and treating a great many cases of yellow fever, Dr. Hastings has published an animated and excellent account of this important malady. His descriptions, like all those drawn from nature, have that freshness which is sometimes wanting in the works of systematic authors, who may not have had opportunities of seeing the disease. He considers that the fever arises only from malaria—from alluvial marshy ground alternately being overflowed and being left uncovered by water—that it is not infectious; that it is a fever allied to intermittent and remittent fevers; that one is liable to second, third, and more attacks of it; that black vomit is blood that has oozed from the mucous membrane of the stomach, and been acted on by the muriatic acid in the stomach.

Its *Symptoms* are rigor, fever, injected eyes, pain in the head, back, and legs, a tender epigastrium, vomiting, and black vomiting.

Its *Morbid Anatomy* is thickening and hardening of the membranes of the brain and spinal marrow, firmness and discoloration of the liver, and thickening and sphacelus of the mucous membrane of the stomach.

Its *Treatment* is bleeding, purgation, ptyalism, and blisters over the stomach and liver; these to be dressed with mercurial ointment, creasote and morphia in certain cases for the vomiting. The above is the first part of the treatment, but the second is as important, and requires more skill and discrimination; and this is to leave off the reducing plan, and to adopt the supporting and stimulating method, and to be careful that too active treatment and over-medication, do not overwhelm the *vis medicatrix nature*.

We have not observed any allusion to the saline treatment, nor to the use of quinine, although its assumed malarial origin points to the latter medicine.

Dr. H. notices the opinions of Fergusson, Lind, Wilson, and others. We consider his criticism on Dr. Wilson to be erroneous; for certainly, if decaying wood, in a marsh, be allowed to be a cause of fever, it must be the same in a ship. A large ship in a tropical climate, with many of its timbers, &c., in a state of decay, and those at the bottom of the hold always covered with a varying quantity of bilge-water, becomes

perfectly qualified to cause fever among those on board.

We heartily recommend Dr. Hastings' brief but able Essay to the notice of all naval, military, or civil surgeons, whose lines may be cast within the limits of the yellow band.

ART. XXXIX.—*A Dispensatory and Therapeutical Remembrancer, comprising the entire Lists of Materia Medica, preparations and compounds, with a full and distinct version of every practical formula, as authorised by the London, Edinburgh and Dublin College of Physicians, in the latest Editions of their several Pharmacopæias, &c.*; by JOHN MAYNE, M.D., L.R.C.S., Edinburgh. Revised with the addition of the *Formulae of the United States Pharmacopæia, &c.*; by R. EGLESFELD GRIFFITH, M.D., Philadelphia. Lea & Blanchard, 1848. Small 8vo; pages 329.

The object which the author had in the work before us, may be gleaned from the preface to it, viz., to make "an abridged practical formulary of the three British Pharmacopæias; and this in addition to a full amount of collective information as to the uses, &c., of the medicines, and other important points relating to remedial means and appliances. Another feature of originality, which, it is expected, will prove highly serviceable, is the introduction, wherever deemed requisite, of extemporaneous formulae into the work, intended to assist the practitioner's memory, by suggestions of forms and combinations most suitable for the medicinal substances to which they are annexed." The addition of the official articles and processes of the United States Pharmacopæia, by the American editor, completes the publication. The plan is based upon the therapeutical action of the various articles of the Materia Medica, thus facilitating a reference to Medicines productive of similar action, while under the different heads they are all arranged alphabetically. Dr. Griffith has, in our opinion, effected a decided improvement upon the original, and to practitioners in this country, as well as to those in the United States, it presents claims to especial consideration, as being an excellent epitome of the four Anglo-Saxon Pharmacopæias.

ART. XL.—*The Young Stethoscopist; or, The Student's Aid to Auscultation*; by HENRY J. BOWEN, M.D., one of the Physicians of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Second edition. New York, Samuel S. & William Wood, 1848. Small 8vo.; pages, 303.

As far as it goes, this treatise is accurate, and will assist the student; but we are of opinion, that if auscultation be of value in diagnosis, it is worth the trouble of becoming fully intimate and familiar with its principles and difficulties, and on this account we do not think very highly of the above treatise, as we do not consider it capable of communicating any but the most superficial knowledge on the subject. It cannot bear comparison with the treatises of Walshe, Cowen, Raciborski, Barth and Roger, André, or Hughes; and as these works are deservedly popular, and, moreover, cheap, we do not think there was much necessity for the appearance of the "Young Stethoscopist;" but as