

Reviews and Notices of Books.

TANNER'S CLINICAL MEDICINE AND PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS. Third American, from the second English Edition. Revised by **TILBURY FOX, M.D., &c.** Published by Henry C. Lea, Philadelphia. Toronto: Adam, Stevenson & Co.

This is an exceedingly useful little book, presenting in portable form, well condensed, but very distinctly, a vast amount of instruction for students attending hospital, and for older men busily engaged in practice. It does not teach the treatment of disease, but it takes the student to the bedside, and shows him how to diagnose one disease from another, and for a beginner, that is more than half the battle.

There are so many things to approve, that we hardly know where to begin. One passage in the chapter on examination of children, we fully endorse, although the laity, and many practitioners, we are sorry to say, take the opposite view. He says,—"by patience and good temper, by a quiet demeanor and a gentle voice, a diagnosis may be formed almost as easily as in the case of adults." The whole chapter is worthy the careful attention of those who have to treat sick children. Then he gives directions how to report a case, and how to conduct a post mortem, both of which, if attended to, would prevent much of the bungling we sometimes meet with. The chapter on medico-legal investigations, evidence in courts of law, and in relation to railway accidents, will be found most interesting, in view of the many occurrences of the kind which we have recently witnessed in this country.

Then we have chapters on the thermometer, microscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, and sphygmograph, as aids to diagnosis. But while we approve of all the author says, we must confess our belief that the two latter will never be more than toys or playthings in the hands of the majority of general practitioners. Their successful use requires more time and practice than most men can afford, and more patience than most sick people possess, unless they fall into the hands of a specialist, who has a peculiar power in gaining and fixing their confidence. But where a community is large enough to sustain a man in devoting his whole time to the use of one or both, then we believe he may become so expert in the use of the laryngoscope and sphygmograph as to derive very great help from them in diagnosis.

In the chapter on "circumstances that modify disease," we are glad to see attention drawn to the facts pointed out by Weber, Brehmer, Spengler, Smith, and others, in relation to the treatment of

consumption by prolonged residence in elevated regions.

There appears to be a large mass of evidence in favour of the mountains; and we advise our friends to examine the matter carefully when called upon to select a residence abroad for those threatened with phthisis, as we have been long convinced that injury was often done by sending such invalids to warm, moist, miasmatic climates.

In the chapter on examining for Life Assurance, we find some very clear and sound advice, viz.:—"If in doubt about the propriety of accepting a certain life, consider whether it would be advisable for the office to have one hundred such cases on its books."

"Decline the life of a person who is not sober. Suppose he has been given to drinking, and has reformed two or three years, yet his life should be declined, since permanent reformation is so very rare." Such is the character of the little book before us, which for practical usefulness will excel many works five times as pretentious.

OBSTETRIC APHORISMS, FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS COMMENCING MIDWIFERY PRACTICE. By **JOSEPH GRIFFITHS SWAYNE, M.D.** From fourth revised English edition, with Additions. By **EDWARD R. HUTCHINS, M.D.** Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea. Toronto: Adam, Stevenson & Co.

We are glad to find this excellent little work has been reprinted in America, and thus brought within reach of our Canadian students. It treats first of the management of natural labour; then of those cases which the student may, and again those which he may not undertake without assistance. To this is added, by the American editor, a chapter on the care of the newly born infant, and another upon abortion.

Without professing to be a treatise upon Midwifery, it is full of practical hints, which are of incalculable value to the student and junior practitioner. We have ourselves used the book as a student, in London, and can speak from personal experience as to its utility. It contains just that information in a concise shape, which the beginner is constantly in need of, and the possession of which gives him ease and confidence as to the course he ought to pursue. No student should begin practice without it.

HANDBOOK OF ZOOLOGY, WITH EXAMPLES FROM CANADIAN SPECIES, RECENT AND FOSSIL. By **J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.** Part I.; Invertebrata, with 275 illustrations. Dawson Brothers, Montreal.

This volume comes up to our ideal of a class-book for the use of students and beginners, and