

A TREATISE ON SURGERY; Its Principles and Practice, by T. Holmes, M. A., Cantab., consulting surgeon to St. George's Hospital, etc. 5th Edition, by T. Pickering, Pich, Surgeon and Lecturer on Surgery at St. George's Hospital, etc. Philadelphia: Lea Bros & Co., 1889.

The chief merits that this work possesses, in addition to its great typographic and bibliographic excellence, are not few, and not to be mentioned in a single sentence. Reviewing it from the student's point of view, the "golden mien" has been reached between brevity and prosperity. A textbook such as Walshman's, which has come to be largely used in this country, sacrifices cleverness and *rationalité* to brevity, while Erichson will remain an unknown storehouse till after their graduation. Holmes' work just fills the bill as regards length. It is distinctly clinical in character, and descriptive rather than theoretical. It has been brought quite up to date in the last edition on such modern subjects as Antisepsis, Cerebral Localization, and Neoplasms, and the General Pathology of the introductory chapter seems as settled as any account of that somewhat fluctuating subject can yet be made.

The illustrations are very numerous (427) and excellent, and not the least attractive chapter is that on Minor and Operative Surgery in the last sixty pages. The diction of the author is much above the average; no slight matter in determining the pleasure of the student in the perusal. A decided typographical fault is to be seen in the lack of "display" in arranging the various subdivisions of a subject. Dislocations, for instance, of the clavicle running on into dislocations of the shoulder, with no more break than that afforded by the paragraph, and figures or letters to indicate divisions and subdivisions of a subject being almost unknown.

THE MILK SUPPLY OF PARIS AND INFANT MORTALITY.—In a contribution by M. Ch. Girard to the French Society of Public Medicine, the author gives some interesting details on the milk supply of Paris and its influence on infant mortality. Every dairyman and milk vendor in Paris is visited at least once a year by an inspector appointed by the Municipality, who takes samples of the milk and submits them for analysis at the municipal laboratory. An average of four hundred such analysis are now made every month. The result has been to bring about a notable

amelioration in the quality of the milk sold, the proportion of "moistened" samples have fallen from thirty-one to fourteen since 1881. During the same period of time the infantile mortality has decreased from 22.5 per 1,000 to 17, and although the integral difference may not be attributable to this source, there can be no doubt that the improvement in the quality of the milk, associated with the generalization of a form of bottle more easily cleansed, are two important factors in this saving of life. This constitutes further evidence of the utility of the municipal laboratory, the foundation of which some few years since was the signal for so much bitter opposition, principally on the part of wine merchants, who foresaw clearly what would happen. So far, however, they have succeeded in averting the wrath to come, though for this they are indebted principally to the physical impossibility of securing a constant supply of genuine wines.—*Med. Press and Cir.*

EPILEPSY, CASE V.—This little girl, seven years old, has had epilepsy since the age of four. Her seizures have never been more than two weeks apart, and at these times she often has as many as eight or ten spasms during the day. Her mother describes the typical convulsion with which you are familiar—the outcry, unconsciousness, general clonic spasms and frothing at the mouth, followed by deep sleep, from which she awakes without recollection of the circumstance. It is unusual for a child so young as this to have the graver form of epilepsy. Her disease began, as we are told, with a *petit mal*, but rapidly developed into the graver type. She has been taking the mixed bromides, which are more efficient in this form of the disease than a single bromide salt, and she has had no recurrence for a month. The following prescription will give an idea of the plan of treatment:

R.—Potassii bromid., . . . . . ʒ j.  
Sodii bromid., . . . . . ʒ ss.  
Ammonii bromid., . . . . . dr. ij.  
Syrup simplicis, f., . . . . . f ʒ ij.  
Aquæ gaultheriæ, q. s. ad. f., f ʒ vi.—M.  
Sig.—Teaspoonful three times a day.

If she have another seizure, we will increase the dose by a half; and if this is ineffectual we will double the dose. The bowels must be regulated, and a meat diet forbidden. I believe that meat does harm in these cases because children are disposed to bolt their food, and meat in a half digested condition is especially apt to set up reflex irritation.—*Arch. of Pediatrics*

TREATMENT OF ITCH.—At St. Louis Hospital, Paris, itch is treated by first anointing the body with a mixture of oil of sweet almonds (three ounces) and salol (one ounce), then rubbing in flowers of sulphur.