

TOOTH EXTRACTION. A manual of the proper mode of extracting teeth, with a table exhibiting, in parallel columns, the names of all the teeth, the instruments required for their extraction, and the most approved methods of using them. By John Gorham, M.R.C.S. London; Fellow of the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, etc. H. R. Lewis: 136 Gower St., W.C., London, 1893. Price, 1s. 6d.

The fact that this little work is in its fourth edition is a recommendation in itself as to its intrinsic value. The chapter on anesthetics is very weak, but the remainder of the little volume is well worthy of perusal.

It seems surprising, however, that in 1893 a writer should be found giving so much prominence to the old tooth-key as a means of extraction. For, though deprecating its general use on account of the unnecessary injury to the gums and adjacent parts, the author yet advocates it as the best instrument in certain cases. We would certainly not advise any student or general practitioner to invest in a tooth-key.

THE DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. A text-book for physicians and students. By Ludwig Hirt, Professor at the University of Breslau. Translated with permission of the author by August Hoch, M.D., assisted by Frank R. Smith, A.M. (Cantab.), M.D., with an introduction by Wm. Osler, M.D., F.R.C.P. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

A work which has been highly recommended by Dr. Weir Mitchel, and introduced to the profession of this continent by Dr. Wm. Osler, does not need any special words of commendation from us.

The author divides the subject in a somewhat different manner from that ordinarily pursued. The diseases of the brain, spinal cord, and general nervous system are separately treated; the cranial nerves, for instance, are taken along with the brain, after the diseases of the membranes and before those of the brain proper. He divides the diseases of the general nervous system into two principal classes: those without any recognizable anatomical basis, and those with known gross lesions. In this latter class he places locomotor ataxia, a disease which is almost, if not always, placed along with the affections of the spinal cord. He is of opinion that this is warranted by the general character of the disease; the cerebral, spinal, and neural systems all being implicated. The lesions of the neural system have been described first by Turck, Friedreich, Westphal, and more recently by Déjerine and Pitres.

His remarks upon the causation of tabies will be of interest. He divides cases into two classes—non-syphilitic and syphilitic.

The non-syphilitic causes occur in those voluntarily predisposed to nervous affections, neurotic families, etc. Causes of direct hereditary character are very rare.

As exciting causes he mentions (1) exposure to cold; (2) traumatic influences; (3) over-exertion.

The merits of the work are briefly these:

(1) Very lucid explanation of some of the more difficult points in the pathology of the nervous system.

(2) Well-executed illustrations, many of which are original.

(3) Very little of importance even of the most recent investigation has been omitted.