

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

Medical Diagnosis, with Special Reference to Practical Medicine.—a Guide to the Knowledge and Discrimination of Disease. By J. M. DA COSTA, M.D., Lecturer on Clinical Medicine, and Physician to the Philadelphia Hospital. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

The author of the above volume is evidently a thoroughly practical physician,—one who, having ample opportunities for observation, has put them to good use. The subject of Medical Diagnosis is full of interest to all laborers in the field of medical science; but especially is it interesting to the young physician who, during his pupilage and hospital attendance, has had but limited time to give the subject more than casual attention. It is only of late years that clinical teachers have looked upon it as the important subject it really is; and there are few now who, on entering the profession, have not instilled into them the principles of medical diagnosis. The multiplicity of subjects that engage the student's time during his attendance at college are so great, that it is impossible for his mind to thoroughly weigh the various symptoms—often so similar in different cases: hence a work like the volume before us is certainly indispensable to the young practitioner. It should be his constant study,—its teachings should be thoroughly mastered. If such was the case, we feel sure many an error,—the result of inexperience—would be saved, and professional reputation not placed in jeopardy. Even older practitioners will find this manual of medical diagnosis of great service. Each symptom is so completely analysed, and the diagnosis of each case rendered so plain, that it is almost impossible for any attentive student of the work to fall into error. The almost countless number of diseases to which the human family is heir, are grouped together according to their most marked symptoms, and not according to their pathological characters. We know that to some the former arrangement will not be so acceptable, as if the latter had been adopted. For several reasons, perhaps, it is a pity that the pathological classification has not been followed; but, taking all things into consideration, the work being more intended for junior practitioners—though of value to all—its clinical character is enhanced by the arrangement the author adopts. There is one chapter which we consider worthy of especial mention: we refer to that on diseases of the nervous system. We are yet in our