

OSLER'S PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

The Principles and Practice of Medicine designed for the use of Practitioners and Students of Medicine by William Osler, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford University; Honorary Professor of Medicine Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; Formerly Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal; and Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Sixth edition, thoroughly revised from new plates. New York and London: D. Appleton and Company, 1905; Toronto: N. Morang & Company. Price, \$5.50.

The late Professor Sir Granger Stewart, of Edinburgh, said at the dinner of the British Medical Association when it met in that city some years ago, in proposing the toast of the guests, of whom Osler was one, that before he addressed his classes he always looked up Osler's Practice of Medicine to find out what it had to say on the subject of his lecture. These were words of high praise, especially if one recalls the high standing of the speaker and the occasion on which he spoke. To quote the above would be to review the work as well as it is possible to review it; for there is no need for criticism, and the above is the strongest commendation.

We wish, however, to say a few words on this standard work; and the first one will be that it is the work of an experienced teacher and the arrangement the very best possible for the student's use. Everything is mentioned in its proper place, and the classification is simple and scientific. The principle affections are discussed under the headings of definition, historical note, etiology, morbid anatomy, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. Such topics as prophylaxis and the association of one disease with another also come in for attention when required.

Another feature of Dr. Osler's Practice of Medicine lies in the excellency of its literary style. In this respect it stands abreast of the classic lectures of Sir Thomas Watson on the Principles and Practice of Physic, to read which is a pleasure never to be forgotten.

But the final word which we wish to say about Dr. Osler's work is on its subject matter; and what can we say but that it is a guide which can at all times be trusted. Equal confidence—and that the fullest—can be placed upon what is said of the cause, diagnosis, pathology, prognosis and treatment of any disease. Complaint has been made that the treatment is too brief; but then it is the best, and why give more? If it is not now, it ought to be in the possession of every practitioner and student of medicine.