Book Reviews.

The Nervous System and Its Constituent Neurons. Designed for the use of Practitioners of Medicine and of Students of Medicine and Psychology. By LEWELLYS F. BARKER, M.B. (Tor.), Associate Professor of Anatomy in the Johns Hopkins University, and Assistant Resident Pathologist to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. With two colored plates and 676 illustrations in the text. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Geo. N. Morang & Co. 1899.

It has been known for some time that Dr. Barker was engaged upon a work on the nervous system, and it was presumed that it would be constructed along the lines of anatomical and pathological research. The work is now before us, and contains 1,122 pages. This is certainly a large treatise on any subject, and it behooves the author, who claims the reader's attention to so large a work, to have something valuable to say, either as original matter, or as a careful review of the state of knowledge to the date of writing. In Dr. Barker's book we have both requirements fulfilled in a very remarkable manner. In a work so large, it is difficult to apportion that which is really original with the author and that which is compiled and arranged from many sources. It must also be remembered that a certain statement may not be original, and yet much original research be expended upon it in order to prove its correctness. We have here a great work on the histology of the nervous system, which is intended as a sure foundation from which its pathology must be studied.

During the past ten years an immense amount of study has been devoted to the minute anatomy of the nervous system. As the result of these studies our views have undergone many and important changes. The first of these epoch-making studies was made by Ramon y Cojal, of Barcelona, Kolliker and Waldeyer. It was Waldeyer who introduced the term neuron; and with this term came a complete revolution in the teachings regarding the minute anatomy of the nervous system. The neurons are the essential elements, and consist of the cell, the axon and the dendron. It is to bring our knowledge of these up to date that Dr. Barker has written his work.

A feature that at once attracts attention, and gives confidence in the book, is the evident thorough acquaintanceship the author has with the literature upon the subject. To say this is to say a great deal, for the literature upon the nervous system is now a most extensive one. It is apparent, however, that none