

named an Italian writer, and it is beyond all question that had he given to the works of Tamburini, Golgi, Luciani, Seppilli, Bianchi and numerous others of the grand old peninsula, even a trifle of his time, he would have produced a still better treatise. Of English writers he *names* but five, and these do not come forth from his pen with much eclat. Of Ferrier, he makes short work, in the following sinistral by-slash. "In parenthesis be it said, that Ferrier's "centres" have met with opposition from *all* other quarters." The italic *all* is Meynert's. It is certainly a *multissimum in parvulo*, but it will not extinguish Ferrier. That his *centres* have been criticised and usefully qualified by several distinguished experimentalists, is well known to readers of foreign medical literature, as well as of English, but that they have met with opposition, in the sense of repudiation or negation, is very far from fact. One can understand why an Austrian Professor could not afford to know something of the doings of a people from whose confines the troops of his own country were ignominiously driven, but what have the English done to merit his scorn? If we may judge from a straggling passage in his preface, Meynert intends in his next volume to annihilate the doctrine of inherited insanity. This will do much in vindication of the mental soundness of his antecedents. Perhaps the translator may be responsible for the following curious announcement. "The brain, like a fixed star, does not radiate its own heat; it obtains the energy underlying all cerebral phenomena from the world beyond it." That Meynert is not a fixed star of this order, will not, by his readers, be questioned, unless the "world without" means only Austria and Germany. But we did not before know that the "fixed stars" do not radiate their own heat. Perhaps Dr. Sachs will not object to a little transposition in the above brilliant metaphor, and allow us to read, "the brain does not like a fixed star, radiate its own heat." If so the author and his translator may claim their proper locations either in the planetary or the cometary range.

THE PEDIGREE OF DISEASE—Six lectures by Jonathan Hutchinson, F. R. S. on Temperament, Idiosyncrasy and Diathesis. New York: Wm. Wood & Co. Toronto: Vannevar & Co.

This book has the two-fold merit of not being large and of coming from the pen of a distin-

guished teacher, whose name will no doubt serve as an adequate guarantee of its utility. Its dedication to the memory of Charles Darwin will hardly fail to commend it to the respectful attention of the general medical profession, and though the veteran practitioner of the healing art may not find in it much that will be new to him, he will be pleased to find some familiar facts presented under a clear and attractive form, and not the less interesting because of his long acquaintance with them. In his observations on *idiosyncrasy*, though the author does not lapse into that hygienic phrenzy which the inspiring subjects of eggs, tea, tobacco, stale fish and alcohol might reasonably have aroused, yet he has perhaps indulged in less twaddle than is usually inflicted on admiring audiences. It is certainly a matter of no trivial regret that so eminent and so experienced a writer has disposed of such important, and sometimes formidable, substances as chloroform, the iodides and bromides, arsenic and some others, with inexpedient brevity. As, however, he was addressing the president and members of the Royal College of Surgeons, he may have been restrained by tender considerations, from enlarging on topics involving delicate affinities. The confession of other people's sins, in mistake for our own, is the cheapest and meanest of human virtues.

J. C. Draper, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of New York, died on the 20th of December in the 51st year of his age.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

On the 20th December, James Jagu Hillary, M.D., of Jamaica, W.I., formerly of Uxbridge, Ont., aged 48 years.

On the 14th ult., R. Ramsay, M.D. of Orillia, aged 44 years.

On the 17th inst., John E. Galbraith, M.D., of Bowmanville, aged 34 years.

On the 23rd ult., J. W. Byam, M.D., of Campbellford, Ont., aged 38 years.

On the 27th ult., C. Leggo, M.D. of Ottawa, aged 69 years.