

The articles to our mind most worthy of commendation are those upon the Rectum, by William Allingham; Urinary Calculus, by G. L. Keyes; Bladder and Prostate, by Reginald Harrison; and Cæsarean Section and its Substitutes, by Robert P. Harris. These, and especially the last named, are models of excellence. Parvin's contribution relating to the Female Genitals, is likewise deserving of mention as a clear and concise compilation of modern views. Simon Duplay, on the Urethra, and Ollier Vincent and Parest, on the Bones, are essentially French, and admirable according to their standard; but Fisher, on Orthopædic Surgery, is too restricted in his space and hence necessarily incomplete, which is the more to be regretted in view of his ability and the frequency and importance of the lesions to be treated. The only Canadian contributor (Dr. Hingston), has done his duty well, but why he should have been selected to write upon "Lithotrity," which Keyes had already ably handled, is not, superficially, apparent.

The articles of this last volume are throughout of more equal merit than those of its predecessors, and in cordially commending it to our readers we may justly say, *Finis coronat opus*.

*Illustrations of Unconscious Memory in Disease, including a Theory of Alteratives.* By CHAS. CREIGHTON, M.D., New York: J. H. Vail & Co., 1886. Pp. 213.

- Dr. Creighton's book on the Physiology and Pathology of the Breast bore the stamp of originality, and this small treatise on Memory, which we have read with much pleasure, proves that the author has evidently the courage of his opinions, and is not afraid to come out boldly in support of them, even when, in doing so, he has to run counter to the accepted views of many able pathologists. His theory is that many diseases, especially those of a chronic nature, are due to a morbid habit or unconscious memory of organs and tissues, keeping up the desire long after the exciting cause has ceased to operate, and that many remedies and drugs are alterative in their curative action by breaking up this habit or memory of morbid action, and allowing the tissues and organs

affected to return to their normal mode of action. The author finds it easy by his theory to dispose of the doctrine of germs and parasites, though we fancy many will hesitate to either accept his premises or coincide with his deductions. Of ague he says: "To refer it to a bacillus, or to any kind of poison at all, is not only a delusion of reasoning but a ludicrous error in the elementary sense of proportion." It is originally due to "primary and direct disorder of the heat-regulating mechanism," by "some concurrence of circumstances, predisposing in the individual and present in his external surroundings." The paroxysmal onset is repeated because *the memory* of it was retained, and is quotidian, tertian, quartan or remittant, according to the severity of the upsetting stroke, the individual's power of resistance and the external circumstances. Dr. Creighton's ability is acknowledged and his reputation as a pathologist stands high, but we hardly think the latter will be increased by such sweeping assertions as the following, which, coming from a young man, and referring to the views of some of the foremost scientists of the present day, is, to put it mildly, scarcely polite: "Nothing more plainly marks the parasitic hypothesis of disease as an *asylum ignorantie* than the desire to extend the benefit of it to climatic fever." Of the bacillary origin of tubercle he speaks in terms equally positive and dogmatic. As to syphilis, he believes that any common sores on the genitals may, apart from all specific poison, under varying circumstances, heal up, become chancroids, or indurated infecting chancres. Gummatous tissue is due to the "memory of granulations gone wrong," or a "tradition of bad healing," and mercury acts by breaking the morbid habit in the tissues or effacing the evil memory in them, "*leaving the system to the influence of its ordinary and healthy functions.*" The book is well worth reading—the theories it treats of are intelligibly advocated by a level-headed Scotch metaphysician; are ingeniously and logically applied to practical therapeutics, and thereby commend themselves to the attention of every practitioner of medicine who will find in them food for thought, and a new encouragement for the intelligent use of drugs—theories founded on