

to realize, or rather one would realize with alarm, what medicine would be, deprived of the assistance supplied by Laennec and Avenbrugger; but in a few years when the thermic method, established by its inestimable services, shall have triumphed over inertia and routine, it will be demanded with astonishment mingled with retrospective pity, what could have been the discernment of disease when it wanted the support of this indication, the infallibility of which is precious above all? Land at your will, either on the ground of science or on that of practice, and everywhere you will find the imprints of realized progress. Methodical observation by the thermometer has demonstrated the exhausting character of fever; it has fixed the character of different febrile cycles, and has furnished the proof of one of the fundamental truths of pathology, namely, the durability and immutability of morbid species; it has fixed the reality and the laws of crises, (quick or slow,) it has established on a solid base the Hippocratic doctrine, and modern science has been able to confirm, after thousands of years, laws formulated by the genius of the ancients—this method finally has revealed the existence of fever in maladies reputed apyrexia. The demonstration of the consumptive nature of fever of whatever character it may be, ought to introduce, and fortunately has introduced a complete reform in the treatment of acute disease, and numerous patients already are indebted for their life to this therapeutic revolution. An inquiry into the connexions which exist between certain thermic figures, and certain symptomatic forms has revealed, that the generality if not the totality of febrile forms called hectic, are the result of an excessive rise of temperature; this positive notion which has taken the place of hypothetical conception has indicated at the same time the only rational therapeutics. How shall we estimate the value of a method which, beyond all hypothesis, all interpretation, reveals by day, hour by hour, the exact situation of the patient to the physician, and furnishes to his prognosis and treatment a certainty which has been the supreme but inaccessible end of practitioners of all time?

For myself, in the presence of the undeniable facts of clinical thermometry, if anything could convince me, it is the indifference and carelessness with which it is treated by the generality of our professional brethren. How can this be? We

have here a method of exploring, of elementary simplicity, it furnishes for the interest of the patient, indications that would be vainly sought from any other method, it gives to medical appreciation a coin of vantage the solidity of which is such that the legitimate anxieties of a conscientious medical man are reduced to a minimum, and this method is not universally adopted! It is incredible! Verily an abominable fact is the stifling grasp of routine. The book that you present to-day to French Physicians, is the code of clinical thermometry, established on millions of facts by an attentive observer in transposing it to our language in the elegant and facile form that is habitual to you; you have overcome the last obstacle for familiarizing the method, and you will acquire a well earned title to the gratitude of all friends of progress."

Wanderlich in his preface to the second edition 1870, informs his readers "that for sixteen years he had without cessation directed his attention to the variations of temperature in disease. In all the patients in my clinical wards thermometric mensurations were made regularly twice a day. In the cases of febrile affections, the temperature is taken four or eight times a day, and frequently oftener if circumstances require it. I have also acquired the conviction from frequent trials that this method of exploration is equally applicable to patients attended at their own houses. I have thus collected by degrees, millions of thermometric mensurations and I have been able to follow the complete evolution of temperature in thousands of morbid cases." We propose from time to time continuing the translation of this valuable work.

TORONTO LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto, for the year ending Sept. 30, 1874, is before us. From the summary of operations during the year we give the following:—Remaining in Asylum 1st Oct., 1873, 315 males and 311 females, total 626; admitted since, 86 males and 56 females, total 142; total under treatment, 401 males, 367 females, total 678; the number of recoveries 60—36 males and 24 females; improved, 13 males and 8 females; unimproved, 3 males 1 female; eloped, 3 males. The total number of deaths 40—26 males and 14 females.