

*Notices of Books.*

anecdotes are to be doubted, and the fact that the inferences are rather far-fetched, is made use of to further discredit Jenner's history. It is as though a leading politician of the present day is to be belittled because sundry admirers have found inspiration in the undeniable fact that, as an undergraduate, he rejoiced in the "Camptown Races," and other choice effusions of neo-negro minstrelsy, whereas other admirers pass over the matter in silence. There is evidence given by one early biographer that, in 1770, when he was a pupil to the Messrs. Ludlow, at Sudbury, Jenner had his attention called to the subject by seeing a young woman who declared herself protected inasmuch as she had taken the cowpox. In 1780 he mentioned his views at length to his friend Gardner. In 1787 he called his nephew's attention to the heels of a horse suffering from the "grease," and declared to him that there was the source of smallpox; the next year he exhibited a drawing of the cowpox eruptions in London; and finally, in 1793, was published his "Inquiry," and armed with these facts, and with the statement of Fosbrooke that up to 1795 Jenner was not *burdened* with the labours which vaccine had generated, Crookshank makes the point of asking why Simon should state: "Thirty years elapsed before the fruit was borne to the public; but incessantly he thought, and watched, and experimented on the subject." Such criticism is small. The writer does not in any way show that Jenner was not for long years intensely interested in the subject: all that he does is by pages of discussion to throw some slight doubt upon a statement whose force is pardonable. The same absurdly extensive criticism of minutiae vitiates the whole criticism of Jenner's life and letters. Case after case might be given in support of this contention, but to mention all would alone occupy far more space than is at my disposal. I can but call attention to Professor Crookshank's treatment of the publication of the "Inquiry into the causes and effects of the Variola Vaccinae." The first paper was, in 1796, transmitted to Home, with the intention of having it printed in the "Transactions of the Royal Society," but Jenner abandoned the idea and resolved to publish his communication as a pamphlet. This was done in June, 1798. In the library of the College of Surgeons is a manuscript copy of what is evidently an early draft of the paper; this had been in the possession of the Jenner family until it passed to Sir James Paget, and then by his gift to the Library at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Professor Crookshank, without assigning sufficient reasons, treats this throughout as the paper presented to the Royal Society, and then proceeds to criticise the differences that exist between it and the printed pamphlet. These differences, save where merely verbal, are, taking all things into consideration, singularly slight. When revising a paper for the press, several months after it was first written, with so many months'