

The scope of the work can be judged by the heading of the chapters: I. The Examination of the Eye in Disease; II. Diseases of the Lachrymal Apparatus; III. Diseases of the Eyelids; IV. Diseases of the Conjunctiva; V. Diseases of the Cornea; VI. Diseases of the Sclera; VII. Diseases of the Iris and Ciliary Body; VIII. Diseases of the Lens; IX. Diseases of the Vitreous Body; X. Glaucoma; XI. Diseases of the Orbit. Whether judged by the plates or by the text, the book is an admirable one, and forms a thoroughly reliable guide to the most advanced treatment of the diseases spoken of.

J. T. D.

---

### The Stethoscope and Phthisis.

The characteristic of the newly-qualified practitioner is an implicit reliance on instruments for facilitating physical examination. He hardly looks at the patient, but proceeds with an enthusiasm tempered by anxiety to explore the various organs which are accessible to the stethoscope or other mechanical appliance. As he acquires experience he learns that there are other means of arriving at a conclusion, as indeed there must be, seeing that our predecessors were by no means contemptible diagnosticians at a time when the sphygmograph, the stethoscope, and the ophthalmoscope were unknown. It is, perhaps, especially in phthisis that too blind a devotion to the sounds revealed by the stethoscope is apt to mislead. The absence of audible evidence of internal lesions is a remarkable fact in many cases of even advanced phthisis, and physical signs may come and go in a way that baffles explanation and discourages the investigator. In such cases a wider survey of the patient will usually reveal indications amply sufficient to enable the physician to arrive at a diagnosis even in the absence of stethoscopic signs. The latter when present are important, though not infallible, but it is important that the practitioner should not put on blinkers and shut out from view the information to be gathered from an attentive inspection of the patient viewed as an independent and composite organism. The microscope is another instrument which often fails to give positive support to a diagnosis which the clinical signs fully justify. In the words of the writer in a recent article in the *Polyclinic*, "We must not on account of these facts underrate the value of the instrumental aids to diagnosis which modern science has put into our hands, let us however carefully keep them in their place and not permit them to usurp an authority to which they are not entitled, above all let us not allow exaggerated trust in them to displace the most sedulous cultivation of other and older methods.—*Medical Press Circular*."