

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

XLIV. *Clinical Lectures* on certain diseases of the urinary organs and on dropsies. By ROBERT BENTLEY TODD, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to King's College Hospital. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson. Quebec: Middleton & Dawson. 1857. Pp. 283.

We have long had some old-fashioned notions about medical education in our head, which, from being pertinent to the subject of clinical teaching, may find a partial vent in the present place without transgressing against propriety. Beginning even in the cherished years of our own apprenticeship they soon found development in a seedling, which in turn has continued to manifest vitality, although its power has evoked little more than the roving disturbances of an occasional stray thought. Generally speaking, our views on things at large, and medicine in particular, are indubitably conservative, but we also confess that we are not so thoroughly ultra-toryistic in spirit as to frown down all reform, and oppose any change in time-honored usages. On the contrary, we would heartily encourage and vigorously prosecute every innovation which could be proved to be an improvement. Measured by this admission, we at once concur in the following observations, because they are akin to those that have occurred to ourselves, and as we presume, are expressed with no other feeling than a claim to careful consideration. "Much impediment is thrown in the way of clinical pursuits by the great number and length of the course of lectures which students are called upon to attend in the schools. . . . How unnecessary in the present state of literature are long courses on the practice of medicine or surgery. . . . How much better would it be to confine the lectures on these subjects to the discussion of difficult, doubtful, and important points of pathology and practice, preceded by a sufficient statement of first principles suitable for the uninitiated." These remarks of Dr. T.'s occur in his preface, and being his own views, naturally, as we would expect, have influenced his conduct as a great medical teacher. With opportunities of the most advantageous kind—the chances and changes of a metropolitan hospital—he has applied the abilities of a gifted and well cultivated mind to the careful elucidation of matters peculiar to clinical inquiry. The profession have already been favored with one volume embodying some of his lectures, and now encouraged by their welcome from his brethren at large, he has prepared a second volume. The latter embraces xvi lec.