

tures with understanding, without which failure is a certainty. Every subject is clearly and concisely put, padding is conspicuous by its absence. As he says in the preface, "Theory and pathology have only been considered in so far as may be necessary to an understanding of the diagnosis, course and treatment of the disease."

Messrs. Wm. Wood & Co. have, as usual with this house, given us a sample of their excellent work, letterpress and illustrations being excellent. The price, \$4.50, is moderate for such an excellent work.

A. B.

Lectures on Hysteria and Allied Vaso-Motor Conditions. By THOMAS DIXON SAVILL, M.D., London; Physician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, Welbeck St., London, and to the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Leicester Square, London; formerly Medical Superintendent of the Paddington Infirmary and Workhouse; Examiner in Medicine in the University of Glasgow; Assistant Physician and Pathologist to the West End Hospital. New York: William Wood & Co. London: Henry J. Glaisher. 1909.

This is not only a sound work, in which the latest scientific facts in relation to hysteria are propounded, but it is excellently arranged and entertainingly written.

The hysterical temperament is indicated by a marked tendency to sudden flushings and pallor of the skin, by hypersensitiveness of the reflexes, by the paroxysmal character in the interruptions of the vital functions, and by emotional instability. The author believes that by the so-called stigmata of hysteria, namely suggestibility, somnambulism and alternation of mental states, are the qualities peculiar to all hysterical phenomena, rather than to their subjects; "all is caprice, instability and alternation."

Emotional instability is an inherent part of the hysterical diathesis, and constitutes the pre-disposing condition necessary for the development of hysterical symptoms; thus it follows that complex emotional states, as grief, anxiety, disappointment, surprise and anger, act as determining causes through the disturbed functioning of the great sympathetic nervous system, and find their varied expressions through the organs and structures so largely supplied by that system.

The author successfully controverts the commonly accepted view that hysterical attacks are closely related to disturbed functions of the reproductive organs; he points out that as the initial defect is centred in that nervous system which largely supplies the reproductive organs, these organs must necessarily suffer disturbed functions, and the consequent clinical manifestations will naturally attract the observer's attention and cause him to conclude that the disease is in the sexual organs themselves, rather than in the nervous centre supplying them in common with other structures.

N. H. B.