

ences becomes the guide and immature reasonings are displaced. Here the business is not what we might think would be serviceable, but, on the contrary, with what has been found out to be efficient. And if our author should not bring forward anything, either of novel indication or peculiar in appliance, he only thereby lends additional confirmation to the evidence which induced us to say, at starting, that the idea, of a correct pathology being necessary to a proper treatment, was simply a chimera. Were it otherwise, we should expect that, in the face of so much novel pathology, there should be a corresponding revolution in the treatment. But he justifies our sentiment, and we find that he deals with epilepsy much in the same way and with the same implements as others who have different pathological conceptions.—In the class of drugs he places the oxid of zinc first, and descends to an analytical examination of Herpin's avowed success with it. After this, he, in turn, mentions ammonio-sulph of copper, nitrate of silver, iron, quinine, turpentine, valerian, naphtha, &c. These, it will be perceived, are just the agents a practitioner, looking at the disorder through the lens of power, would select,—in short they are the means commonly resorted to. It does not follow, as experience shows, that tonics like these must be necessarily contraindicated where power is supposed to characterize the proximate cause of the disorder; for the morbid elements of the part may be in power, while the constitution at large is in debility. The error formerly entertained was to distribute power over too large a sphere, and consider the affected organ as involved in a part of a general power everywhere dispersed. Accordingly, as our author properly remarks,

"It is now no longer the habit to bleed, either by the lancet or by leeches. It is now no longer the habit to distress the bowels by purges, or the stomach by emetics."

But this abandonment of depletion, it will be observed, has not been attended with an accompanying abandonment of doctrine, for practitioners give them up and still hold to their old ways of thinking about the nature of the malady.

As the title declares, the volume is, also, on other convulsive affections than epilepsy. These occupy four chapters, and are entitled Tremor, Simple Convulsion, Epileptiform Convulsion, and Spasm,—each is examined in its history, pathology, and treatment. The history is first general, then special, in reference to the different modifications or phases of each.

In bringing these remarks to a close, we may mention our object has been principally to awaken an interest in Dr. Radcliffe's work, feeling persuaded that it is one, the study of which will recommend itself to every individual who is in search of the latest information upon the