

# The Physician's Library.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Nothnagel's Encyclopedin of Practival Medicine.* American edition. Diseases of the Stomach, by Franz Riegal, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Giesen. Edited by CHARLES G. STOCKTON, M.D. Authorized translation from the German under the editorial supervision of Alfred Stengel, M.D. Philadelphia, New York, and London: W. B. Saunders & Company. 1903. Canadian agents: J. A. Carveth & Co., Toronto.

This volume, being devoted to subjects of such vital importance to all countries and climates, has been looked forward to with much anticipation. It is one of the largest, and will prove one of the most useful of the series constituting this important work. Yet, on examining it, one regrets that he cannot agree with the editor that "in simple, strong, and dignified language, the author has presented his subject with such sincerity and clearness that his views will meet almost invariably with ready acceptance." The work suffers in comparison with any of the older writers. Much of the first section of the work especially is anything but "strong and dignified in language, and clear in presentation of views," and to this is largely due the unnecessary size of the volume. The editor might well have followed the example of the editor of a preceding volume by sending the translation back for revision. This observation is justified by the frequent occurrence of such expressions as "led to the formulation of an incorrect diagnosis," "if the patient is obese, this renders the examination more difficult," "the favorite locations of carcinoma," etc. "Can" is repeatedly used where "may" is intended, as "the pancreas can simulate a tumor," "Cancer can be localized in other portions of the stomach." The additions by the editor himself are not free from equally objectionable forms of expression. These are serious blemishes which detract very much from the value of the book. In a work of such pretensions, quite as much care should be bestowed on the form as on the matter.

The volume begins with an account of the methods of examination in diseases of the stomach, and the directions are explicit. For inflating the stomach he uses a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of