

Book Reviews.

CLINICAL TREATISES ON THE SYMPTOMATOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS OF DISORDERS OF RESPIRATION AND CIRCULATION. By Prof. Edmund Von Neusser, M.D., Professor of the Second Medical Clinic, Vienna. Authorized English Translation. By Andrew MacFarlane, M.D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Physical Diagnosis, Albany Medical College. Part I., Dyspnea and Cyanosis. New York: E. B. Treat & Company. 1907.

The development of bacteriology since Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus in 1881, and the application of solid culture media for the differential growth of the bacteria have tended in the last two decades to lead the physician to rely for his diagnosis upon laboratory aids and less upon clinical observation. In order to be thoroughly understood and rationally treated, disease must be studied primarily in its entirety as a pathological process.

The all-absorbing search for the specific cause of a disease, although most valuable when indicated, has too often pushed into the background the manifest clinical evidences of the disease, and the physician has regarded them of subordinate value and apparently even of negligible worth.

The diagnosis of disease must, in the great majority of patients, be determined at the bedside and not in the laboratory. Laboratory findings are most valuable aids to diagnosis, but are not, except in a few instances, diagnoses themselves and never substitutes for clinical bedside work.

This present series of monographs accentuates the value of the study of symptoms as observed at the bedside of the patient, and reproduces the marvellous clinical pictures of Trousseau, Niemeyer, Sydenham, Flint and others, illuminated by present-day knowledge of pathology and clinical methods.

Professor Edmund Neusser, with his rare diagnostic instinct and his almost uncanny memory of clinical facts and their correlation to pathological findings, typifies in the strict sense the modern master clinician.

These lectures are the resultant of almost limitless clinical material and of a scientific acumen which does not overlook any fact no matter how seemingly trivial and unimportant.

Those who have had the opportunity of visiting Professor Neusser's clinic and of listening to his erudite exposition of diseases and have observed his methods in diagnosing cases before a largely attended class will read this work with an absorbing interest.