

may be forced to relieve an inflamed joint of its effused material by puncture, but articular abscesses by free incisions, for reasons which require no further proof.

The 4th division on lateral curvature of the spine, is so flippantly compiled as to be rendered useless in every particular. The subject is yet, involved in some obscurity, but Dr. Prince renders it still more obscure. Lorinser of Vienna is the only author who ascribes lateral curvature to morbid changes of the spine, and its ligamentous apparatus; whereas the greatest pathologists, including Rokitsansky, emphatically deny it, nor is the opinion of Lorinser borne out by facts. Yet our author enumerates under II, as one of the common causes, and links it with violence to the spine in general. The case by which he attempts to substantiate his opinion on page 125, is certainly a most singular one. His patient, a lad of 15 years, fell from a house, three years previously, striking upon his head and was nearly helpless for a few days after. "This is the only known cause" of the deformity that occupied the superior half of the spine. The author informs us that after ten days' use of his apparatus delineated on page 107, "the patient had increased half an inch," after two months  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch; and after five months  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch; and he thinks he might have gained still more if he had kept the patient in the horizontal posture. A competent reader might feel inclined to take the whole, as an opportune story and might apply the remark of Solly; that but "knaves and ignoramuses" could assert the straightening of a curved spine tantamount with the increase of height; but we do not choose to deal so uncharitably with Dr. Prince as to question his veracity, though we cannot save his diagnosis of "softening of the spine." The only commentary we have to offer is, that the patient, in consequence of the violence sustained, suffered from local paralysis of the muscles concerned in the deformity, and that the doctor succeeded in re-establishing the proper innervation, for his apparatus is too ineffective to bring about the claimed result.

Under II. Dr. Prince enumerates spasmodic contraction of dorsal muscles as another of the causes of lateral curvature. This opinion has been started by Jules Guein, but Malgaigne, has so thoroughly exploded it as utterly groundless, that we are rather surprised to find the author still possessed of it. It is well known, and should not have escaped his notice, that the former extensively practised myotomy upon the supposed contracted dorsal muscles, and had the coolness to promise to the French Academy of Sciences ocular demonstrations by his patients he pretended to have restored to their normal form and height; but unfortunately his patients, on examination by a committee, proved the very contrary. In the treatment of this deformity, he reproduces the accepted opinions and