

REVIEW DEPARTMENT.

ART. XVIII.—*The Ear in Health and Disease.* By WILLIAM HARVEY, F. R. C. S.

In a former number of this Journal we introduced to the notice of our readers, the valuable practical treatise of Mr. Toynebe, and now we have the pleasure of directing attention to that of Mr. Harvey, and perhaps we shall do more to show the merits of the work by a few extracts than by indulging in any eulogiums of our own.

Mr. Harvey's treatise is a small and cheap work, but a very useful one. Each subject is discussed in a succinct manner and the treatment recommended is highly judicious. We shall quote from the chapter on Diseases of the Meatus Externus, "*Mode of Examination.*" In order to understand the morbid condition of the Meatus Externus, it is necessary that the practitioner should familiarize himself with its appearance in health. It will have been seen that the canal is by no means straight, and therefore, in order to its effectual examination a speculum is obviously necessary; and the knowledge which the practitioner will acquire of the morbid appearances of the auditory canal will much depend upon the kind of speculum which he employs," p. 51.

The author recommends a bivalved instrument, "with a disc of at least one inch and a half in diameter and the other extremity small enough when closed to enter a meatus very much contracted from disease or any other cause."

"In using the instrument it must be recollected that the canal is divided into two distinct portions, the external being cartilaginous and therefore elastic, and the internal osseous and therefore undilatable." The great error made by some instrument makers is owing to their ignorance of this anatomical point. We ourselves procured an Ear speculum from a famous instrument maker in London, many years ago, and found it was made of three blades which could be opened by a screw in the same manner, and upon the same principle as the three bladed anal or vaginal speculum. Need we say it has lain in a drawer ever since. Having introduced the speculum, the light being favorable, the surgeon should next look for the 'ceruminous circle,' consisting of a circle of fine hairs, covered in health by a sort of glutinous dew. This is the cerumen, which should be of a yellowish brown colour, and of the consistence of honey; of great tenacity, but varying in this respect according to the healthy or diseased condition of the organ, exposure to the atmosphere, and the age of the individual."

"The presence of this ceruminous circle is diagnostic of a healthy condition of the meatus externus; if deafness coexist with a normal condition of this circle, the probability is, that the cause will be found elsewhere, and probably in the middle ear, from some disordered condition of the parts about the fauces. On the other hand, if the cerumen instead of being arranged in a circle, be distributed in patches, or instead of being of the consistence and appearance of honey, be dried and scaly, then, in either case, it is to be presumed that the