

AURAL CATARRH AND CURABLE DEAFNESS. By Peter Allen, M.D., F.R.S., Edin., M.R.C.S., Eng., Aural Surgeon to, and Lecturer on Aural Surgery, at St. Mary's Hospital, and Aural Surgeon to the Royal Society of Musicians. William Wood & Co., 27 Great Jones Street, New York: Montreal, Dawson Brothers.

The study of aural medicine and aural surgery has long occupied an inferior and neglected position, and has not kept pace with other lines of scientific medical investigation. Why it should be so, may be in the fact, that teaching bodies, with few exceptions, have practically ignored its importance, and also, perhaps, at the examinations, candidates have not been tested therein. The sister study of the eye has far outstripped it, and ophthalmic surgeons of eminence are to be found in almost every country. Had it not been for the labours of Toynbee, Pollitzer, Wilde, Meyer, and others, the profession would yet be groping in the dark, in a most lamentable manner. Any addition to the literature of the subject is to be hailed with gratitude, and it was with feelings of satisfaction we read Dr. Allen's work, particularly since it treats upon that portion of the subject the profession is likely to know least about. Dr. Allen, from his position at St. Mary's Hospital, has had ample opportunities to collect all the material necessary for such a work. He treats altogether of the "Middle ear, including the membrana tympani, the region most commonly affected in aural catarrh." He divides aural catarrh into three classes:

I. Simple aural catarrh, or catarrhal inflammation of the mucous membrane of the cavitas tympani, membrana tympani, eustachian tube and mastoid cells. This form may be divided into acute and chronic.

II. Purulent aural catarrh, or otitis, also acute and chronic.

III. Oborrhœa, aural polypi, &c., or the results of purulent aural catarrh.

This arrangement is simple, and all confusion is avoided. His treatment is admirable, and such as will recommend itself to all who read the work. He is opposed to mercury, and considers it of little use. He says: "Recollect that the constitutional peculiarities commonly met with in patients who are the subjects of catarrh of the middle ear are such as totally unfit them to endure the so-called 'strictly antiphlogistic' measures recommended in almost all works on ear diseases."

"Weakly children and strumous young persons cannot bear well the frequent dosing with calomel or

even the grey powder—the usual panacea, according to popular belief, in all inflammatory complaints. A patient suffering from catarrhal disease of the ear is commonly disordered in general health; especially are the digestive functions disturbed."

There are several illustrations demonstrating the anatomy of the parts and the method of using instruments. He gives a long chapter on catheterism, with the necessary precautions, and gives hints, not mentioned in books, that old practitioners would do well to give heed to.

The book is practical throughout, and practitioners who have a large practice, and who must, of necessity, have a good many patients suffering from aural catarrh consulting them, would do well to add it to their library.

THE VIENNA HOSPITAL; treatment of VENEREAL DISEASE, by M. H. HENRY, M.D., Surgeon to the Venereal Department of the New York Dispensary, adapted and arranged from the German. New York: William Wood & Co. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

This monograph first appeared in the "American Journal of Syphilography and Dermatology," for April of last year. The interest it then excited induced the compiler to issue it on a more permanent form, hence the present very neat little volume of some fifty pages. The Vienna Hospital for the treatment of venereal affections is very probably the largest and best appointed in the world. It follows, of course, that a resume of the experience gained in that extensive establishment cannot fail to be extremely valuable and serviceable to all who are engaged in the treatment of this class of disease. The details of the treatment are extremely minute, and all the more valuable on this account. About two hundred formulæ are given, and the only fault in the work seems to be in this section. In our very humble opinion so many similar formulæ are given as rather to perplex than assist the practitioner. With this exception it is an admirable little volume.

LESSONS IN PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS; by ALFRED L. LOOMIS, M.D., Professor of Institutes and Practice of Medicine in the Medical Department of the University of New York, Physician to the Bellevue and Charity Hospitals, &c., &c. Third Edition, revised and enlarged: William Wood, & Co., Publishers, 27 Great Jones Street, New York, 1872.

Through the courtesy of the publishers we have received a copy of this valuable work, and the fact