

### Books and Pamphlets.

DISEASES OF THE BLOOD AND NUTRITION, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES; being Vol. IV. of "A Handbook of Practical Medicine." By Dr. Herman Eichhorst, Wood's Library for 1886; Illustrated: New York, Wood & Co.

This volume does not fall short of its antecedents in evincement of the wide erudition of this indefatigable author, who seems to have been inspired with the conviction that it behoved him to expatiate on the whole range of human morbidity, with that love of minute details which is the well known virtue of all German writers. It is questionable whether some of the fastidious class of readers might not be disposed to condone the oversight (had it occurred) of a few of his chapters, in which he has treated of diseases, the presence of which in Switzerland must be of very rare occurrence, if indeed it has ever been known. Take, as example, "Yellow Fever." How many cases of this dread malady could ever have come under the observance of the Zurich professor? Was not the medical world already as abundantly supplied with cyclopedic publications, as to have ungrudgingly dispensed with the author's two pages on a disease which has commanded the earnest study of a host of close observers and powerful thinkers, in countries in which it is an endemic resident, or to which it is an enepidemic visitant? It has been said that "brevity is the soul of wit." The reader who, probably thankfully, lights upon Professor Eichhorst's five terminal yellow fever lines, in which he despatches the momentous subject of "*Treatment*," may feel tempted to accuse him of possessing this unnatural German endowment; and as it holds good in our Hibernian fellow-countrymen, that keen wit and the faculty of uttering bulls are twin sisters, so when he finds the leading item of yellow fever *treatment* to consist in the following prescription, he may suspect that the author, or his fore-bearers, have once trodden the soil of the "Island of Saints." Here it is: "Ships, passengers and merchandize from yellow fever ports must be strictly quarantined and disinfected." This, of course was written for the instruction of foreign physicians—not for those of Switzerland, who do not see many ships enter their ports, and need not any quarantine laws to protect them from entrance of the scourge.

Three lines more, for the benefit, of course, of outsiders, dispose of the Swiss treatment of yellow fever. What a benefactor to oblivious Grecians would the author, or his obedient translator, have been, had he felt able to use simpler and shorter words throughout his learned treatise. Aged readers who have long ago forgotten the elements of the Greek language, as well as younger ones who never loaded themselves heavily with etymological spoils, find it trying on their patience, to have continually to search Dunglison for their mother tongue equivalents of polysyllabic jaw-breakers, which if boiled down would have sounded quite as euphonicly, and have averted much disquietude. If space permitted, we could furnish a pretty long list of these learned monstrosities; but as the book is one of high general merit, we may safely commend it, as a whole, to the kind verdict of the readers of our LANCET.

DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND PLEURÆ INCLUDING CONSUMPTION. By R. Douglas Powell, M.D., Lon., F.R.C.P.; Physician to the Middlesex Hospital and to the Hospital for Consumption, at Brompton. Third edition, with illustrations; Wood's Library for 1886. New York: Wood & Co.

This is a book of great value. The author has had ample opportunity for the study of the diseases of which it treats, and no one who reads the work carefully will say that he has not availed himself of the advantages presented in the important professional positions held by him. The style is simple and clear, and the diction is equally free from prolixity and obscurity. Perhaps it may be thought by some readers that the space devoted to the various forms of phthisis—two-fifths of the whole volume—is comparatively long; but it is very natural, and indeed very laudable, that a "Physician to the Middlesex Hospital and the Brompton Hospital" should dwell at greater length on this terrible malady, not indeed, we fear, because of any great advance made of late years in its treatment, but with the view of rendering the etiology and pathology of the disease better understood by the general profession. That Dr. Powell has well succeeded in this relation no experienced or well-trained practitioner of medicine will question. Amid the deluge of new books now teeming from the medical press it is really comforting to light upon one that is worth both the cash outlay and the time devoted to the perusal. This book is worthy of both, and will give a good margin of profit.