

CHEAP AND VALUABLE READING.—Back numbers of "London Lancet," (Am. reprint), for four years; London "Medical Times and Gazette," (weekly)—not second to "Lancet,"—four years; "New York Med. Journal," five years; and "Scientific American" for three years, may be had—the lot very low—as the owner has no use for them. Cost \$75 originally. Apply to Messrs. Dudley & Burns, 11 Colborne Street, Toronto.

The death of Dr. Foulis, of Glasgow, of diphtheria, is noticed in our foreign exchanges. His name is best known in connection with his successful cases of extirpation of the larynx.

Books and Pamphlets.

DISEASES OF OLD AGE. By J. M. Charcot, M.D., Professor in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, etc. Translated by Leigh H. Hunt, B.Sc., New York; with additional Lectures by Alfred L. Loomis, M.D., etc. Published as the June, '81, number of "Wood's Library of Standard Medical Authors."

This book contains 31 lectures; the first 21 of which, we are informed, are by Charcot, and the remaining 10 by Dr. Loomis. We mention this fact merely for the benefit of those who might fail to detect the boundary line between the production of the eminent French Professor, and his trans-atlantic admirer, who has had the business tact of availing of the favorable opportunity of presenting his contributions to medical literature, in company with those of one of the most brilliant scientific writers of the present age. It is, however, our impression, that to a very respectable minority of readers no premonition will be requisite. The transition from Charcot to Loomis must, to every observant student, be as obvious as that of a stratiform break to the eye of a working geologist: not indeed that we would be understood as implying that Dr. Loomis' part of the volume is undeserving of careful perusal. His observations on "Senile Pneumonia, Senile Bronchial Catarrh, Asthma, and Hypertrophy of the Prostate Gland," are well deserving of attention, and had they been presented in a separate and comprehensive work, we think the author would have evinced more delicate discretion. If the object of the Messrs. William Wood & Co. has been mainly to swell

their June number up to a predetermined bulk, so as to give to subscribers a fixed normal quantity, it would be wrong to censure their honesty of purpose; still we think they might have selected from their abundant supply, as an addendum to Charcot's lectures, some little monograph in closer affiliation.

Of the 21 lectures by Charcot, it would be impossible to speak in terms too highly commendatory. If, however, we should signalize any as deserving of special attention, those on Clinical Thermometry seem to us to have high claim. The following passage, as bearing upon a very important criminal case recently tried in Montreal, we regard as not uninteresting:

"It is undoubtedly on account of inanition that a more or less enduring fall in temperature has been quite frequently (Wolff) observed in subacute and chronic mania, with symptoms of depression, chiefly melancholia, attended with stupor. But the interpretation we offer cannot be applied to all cases of this kind. Quite recently, indeed, Dr. Löwenhardt, of Sachsenberg, has reported two cases of insanity where the rectal temperature reached the almost incredible points of 31°, 32°, and 32.5° C. (87.8°, 89.6°, and 90.5° Fahr.), persisting several weeks, while nutrition did not appear to be affected in any noteworthy degree. One of these patients was excitable, the other erotic, and both took sufficient nourishment."

In the case above alluded to, that of *Hayvern*, who is now under sentence of death in Montreal gaol, Dr. J. Howard testified that he had found the temperature (only axillary, most probably) 92.5° Fahr., but three (we believe) distinguished physicians testified that they had never met with so low a degree unless in moribund persons, and the Judge characterized Dr. Howard as a blind enthusiast! The old adage, "*ne sutor ultra crepidam*," is an admonition that might profitably not be ignored either by learned judges, or by medical witnesses; "there are more things in heaven and earth than their philosophy may have dreamt of." A few years ago two conceited surgeons, of London, swore that a lunatic could not have two or three ribs broken, without giving indications of subsequent pain. Every asylum physician in Europe and America laughed at their stilt-walking ignorance. Dr. Howard may now very excusably turn the tables on his poorly-read confrères. With