

Book Notices.

The Transactions of the New York Academy of Medicine. Second series. Vol. VIII, for 1892.

This volume is printed for the Academy. The paper and type are excellent. A wide range of subjects are treated of in the volume. The papers are from the pens of gentlemen of high standing. Coming from these we would expect much, and our expectations are not disappointed on perusal of the articles. We would recommend the volume to everyone who may desire to be in possession of much the best work of last year.

J. F.

The Popular Science Monthly. Edited by WILLIAM JAY YOUNG. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1, 3 & 5 Bond Street. Manager for Canada, N. Morang, 63 Yonge Street, Toronto.

The May number of this popular monthly contains some most interesting papers and miscellaneous reading. Japanese Home Life (illustrated), by Dr. W. Delano Eastlake; The Inadequacy of "Natural Selection," by Herbert Spencer; Cultivation of Human Ideas, by Prof. Wesley Mills, M.D.; Dietary for the Sick, by Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D.; How Science is Helping the Farmer, by Chas. S. Plumb; Discovery of Alcohol and Distillation, by M. Berthelct, etc.

The Diseases of the Nervous System. A text-book for physician and student. By LUDWIG HIRT, Professor of the University of Breslau. Translated with permission of the author, by August Hoch, M.D., assisted by Frank R. Smith, A.M., assistant physician to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. With 178 illustrations. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1893. Canadian Branch: N. G. Morang, 63 Yonge Street, Toronto.

The reader of Professor Hirt's *Diseases of the Nervous System* will lay down this volume with an increased feeling of gratitude to this gentleman, whose nation has already done so much towards the advancement of our knowledge of this comparatively unexplored system. The excellence of the book as a whole makes it difficult to select any one portion as being better than another. The diseases of the cranial nerves, however, which he considers in Part II., is worthy of this selection. The plates showing the origin of those nerves which arise from

the medulla (the Central Africa of the nervous system), are unequalled by those of any other general text-book of the nervous system with which the reviewer is acquainted. The very lucid chapter on Cerebral Palsy in children will be considered a valuable contribution to our knowledge of that disease. The author's classification of *Tabes Dorsalis* among the diseases of the general nervous system is a decided step in advance, since modern researches in pathology have distinctly shown the important and hitherto unknown implication of the brain in this disease. His division of the functional neurosis is also a step in the right direction: but time alone can decide the further course of the path which we will ultimately follow. In conclusion, the entire book is clear, concise and well translated, and it will be a great boon to all interested in the study of the nervous system in this country.

A Handbook of Local Therapeutics. By ALLEN, HARTE, HARLAN and VAN HARLINGEN. Edited by HARRISON ALLEN, M.D. Octavo, 500 pages. Price, \$4.00. P. Blakiston & Co., Philadelphia.

A need for a book of this character has long been apparent, for there has been no text available in which the *local action of drugs* was not subordinated to their general actions, while the average text-book omits altogether, mention of many agents that in the hands of a specialist become valuable aids to cure.

Diseases which require chiefly local treatment are those of the Respiratory Passages, Eye, Ear and Skin, together with certain general surgical affections, including the diseases of women; it is therefore to the great advantage of the work that each remedy has been thoroughly set forth by different authors who have had large practical experience in these various branches.

Each remedy has been taken up in alphabetical order, and after a description of its pharmaceutical properties, is considered in reference to its physiological effect and value in local treatment.

The demands for thorough revision of local medicaments made by the advance of theories of sepsis, have been fully considered, and a succinct account has been presented of the source and properties of the very numerous new agents which affect tissues locally.