

Reviews and Notices of Books.

A Compend of Diagnosis in Pathological Anatomy, with Directions for making Post-mortem Examinations.—By DR. JOHANNES ORTH. Translated by T. C. SHATTUCK, M.D., and G. K. SABINE, M.D., revised by REGINALD H. FITZ, M.D., with numerous additions from M.S., prepared by the author. 8 vo. n. xxxi. & pp. 440. New York: HURD & HOUGHTON, 1873.

With the exception of a short translation of a manual by Virchow, quite recently published on “Post-mortem Examinations, with especial reference to the Medico-legal practice,” no work in the English language has appeared as a guide to the student in the post-mortem room. This, probably, is due to the fact that no special systematic work can be accomplished. The student is forced to take advantage of what comes before him. There is a great difference between the method of study in the dissecting and in the post-mortem rooms, and in the latter the student is left very much to make out for himself what he sees as a result from diseased action, and to interpret its meaning. In saying this we do not wish to infer that pathological anatomy has been neglected, and that no works exist on that subject, nevertheless, we are forced to admit that very few such books as the one before us has appeared in the English language, and that the student is left to make out the conditions observed, without the aid of a guide-book. The work done in the post-mortem room, is desultory and inconstant, no regular order can be followed, so that to be of benefit the student has himself to place the knowledge there gained in some order of arrangement in his subsequent reading.

In the preface to this work the author very correctly observes that “absolutely practical knowledge can only be fully obtained from actual experience in performing autopsies;” and he also remarks that “in order to make this experience the more profitable, it is necessary that a theoretical knowledge should first