

further occupied with a description of the significance of the variations in the "events," as they are called of the sphygmographic tracings. The researches of British observers, such as Burdon-Sanderson, and Anstie, in this latter connection, receive their due meed of notice.

The second part of the work treats of the practical application of the instrument to the study of disease, and consists of descriptive notes in connection with sphygmographic tracings observed by the author in cases of heart disease, functional and organic, phthisis, bronchitis, rheumatic arthritis, and various diseases of the nervous system, such as epilepsy, delirium tremens, and progressive locomotor ataxia. The author's opening remarks in the first chapter of this part of the book merit the careful attention of every one who values accuracy of diagnosis and prognosis. He says: "The ability of any instrument to indicate a departure from perfect health, whether capable of also indicating the precise character of such departure, or not, would stamp it of practical value, just in proportion to its power to do this alone, or more certainly or better than could be done by other means. There are many reasons for believing that the sphygmograph will do all of these; that it will indicate a departure from perfect health, when not ascertainable by other means, is apparent in cases of degeneration of the texture of arteries; and if, as suggested by modern pathology, 'the earliest beginnings of what may be called degenerative disease consist in structural alteration of the minutest arteries' this fact alone would be of inestimable service. Prognosis in certain diseases, the estimation of longevity, the calculation of endurance in prolonged mental labor, and the danger of such labor where certain inheritable diseases are to be avoided, would find in it a valuable indicator. It is at once evident that, could we satisfactorily determine the variations compatible with health, the sphygmographic record of an applicant for life insurance would be the safest record he could present as a test of his condition; and this single feature could hardly fail to be of great pecuniary value in a country where the assurance of life is almost universal. Those who know and lament the multitude of recklessly made or ignorantly or fraudulently made, certificates of soundness, are aware that hundreds of thousands of dollars are annually sacrificed, that might be saved by some such means."

The third part of the book treats of the effects of certain drugs on the sphygmographic tracings, and comprises observations on persons under the influence of *cannabis indica*, *gelsemium sempervirens*, *aconite* and *quinine*. We cordially recommend this little book to those of our readers who may be interested in the Sphygmograph and may say that Dr. Holden's modification of Marey's instrument can be obtained from Otto and Reynders, instrument makers, of New York, at about one-third of the cost of the imported instrument. As we have already stated the illustrations of tracings are numerous, and the book as a whole, is beautifully got up, but the names of the publishers are a sufficient guarantee of this. We may be perhaps permitted to say in this connection that we wish English publishers would more generally follow the almost invariable practice of their transatlantic brethren, and have the leaves of the books they issue cut, before placing them in the hands of men whose time is so much occupied as that of the members of the Medical Profession.

BIRTH.

At Simcoe, Ont., on the 22nd. March, the wife of James Hayes, M.D., of a son.

MARRIED.

In Montreal, on the 3rd of March, by the Rev. R. M. Thornton, M.A., Samuel Ewing, Esq., to Isabella Margaret, daughter of the late Ambrose Blacklock, Esq., M.D., member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, England, surgeon half-pay Royal Navy.

At St. Thomas' Church, St. Thomas, Ont., on Wednesday, the 4th instant, by the Rev. W. George Caulfield, assisted by the Rev. Jeffrey Hill, Charles Battersby, M.D., of Port Dover, to Maria, eldest daughter of Benjamin Walker, Esq., of Belleville, Ont.

DEATHS.

In Montreal, on the 6th March, Cornelia B. MacNeil, relict of the late Dr. Horace Nelson, second daughter of the late Col. D. B. MacNeil, aged 50 years—and mother of Dr. W. D. E. Nelson.

In Hamilton, Ontario, on the 4th March, Thomas Duggan, M.D., aged 61 years.