

also because it is written in such charming language, this book is really interesting. More than once we have taken it up to glance over it, which, we are sorry to say, is all the time we can spare for the work of reviewing, but after an hour's reading we were unable to lay the volume down, and, instead of writing a notice of it, we have just read on and on. As the author says, he has approached the subject from the side of the disease and not from the side of the drug or remedy. Only enough of the pathology and etiology of disease is introduced as is necessary to arrive at the rational indications, without which the administration of a drug can hardly be called scientific. Half a dozen choice formulæ by leading London physicians are appended to each chapter. The author deprecates the modern tendency to prescribe new remedies, some of them patent chemical agents merely on the recommendation of the manufacturers. There is no doubt that many medical men are the poor tools of the wealthy drug exporter, and many a physician of good ability has prescribed himself out of practice, when, if he had stuck to the well-known standard drugs which have stood the test of years, he would have reaped a splendid success. It is impossible, of course, to specially notice all the good qualities of this work, we can only take up a few in which we are more especially interested—for instance, the article on habitual constipation is a remarkably clear one. The author points out that in many of such cases, the patient does not take in a sufficient quantity of water, so that after the other organs have been supplied, none remains over with which to keep the contents of the bowels soft; others again, he says, owing to defective appetite or painful digestion do not take a sufficient quantity of food to yield the necessary stimulus to peristaltic contraction in the intestinal canal. He lays great stress on the necessity for bodily exercise, and where this cannot be obtained in sufficient amount, he recommends abdominal massage along the whole course of the colon. He does not neglect either to urge, especially in the case of young girls, the importance of having a regular hour every day for attending to the bowels. His article on the treatment of peritonitis is thoroughly up to date, and he brings forward a good deal of evidence to show that the operative treatment is on the whole most likely to be of benefit. The *pièce de résistance*, his article on pulmonary tuberculosis, having been for many years physician to Brompton Hospital, we are not surprised to find that he has devoted one hundred and thirty-one pages to the treatment of this disease.

In his chapter on the prevention of the disease, he sets forth very clearly the necessity for the disinfection or the destruction of the sputum of phthisical patients. He considers that the exposure of tubercle bacilli to boiling

water for cleanliness is the most effective method of destroying them. The risk of infection by the dust of dried sputum may be provided against to some extent by warning the patients not to spit on the floor either in the house or in street cars, etc. He recommends Japanese paper handkerchiefs, which afterwards can be burned. He is also greatly in favor of the sanitary cuspidor, which we have already noticed in this Journal. There are also five chapters on the general medical treatment of phthisis, on the symptomatic treatment, on the treatment of complications, and the surgical treatment of phthisis cavities. Chapter Five treats of the regimèntal treatment, and Chapter Six, climatic treatment. In his article on the medical treatment of acute rheumatism and speaking of rheumatic endocarditis, he is very severe on the dry diet recommended by our esteemed *confrère*, Professor James Stewart of Montreal. He says, "to attempt to feed a patient suffering from acute rheumatism, who is sweating profusely and passing dense high-colored urine, with a dry diet in order to obtain some very problematic lowering of blood pressure, is surely to misapprehend the situation entirely." The index is so arranged that one can find either a disease or the various remedies at a glance. Without exaggeration, we can say in conclusion, that one could hardly read anything affording at the same time so much pleasure and profit as this elegantly written and beautifully printed book by Doctor Burney Yeo.

A TREATISE ON THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. By W. S. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Obstetric Medicine in King's College, London; Examiner in Midwifery to the Universities of Cambridge and London, and to the Royal College of Physicians. Sixth American from the eighth English edition. Edited, with additions, by Robert P. Harris, M.D. In one octavo volume of 697 pages, with 217 engravings and 5 plates. Cloth, \$4.00; leather, \$5.00. Philadelphia, Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

The demand for eight English and six American editions of this standard work in seventeen years testifies to the success with which the author has executed his original purpose. His object "has been to place in the hands of his readers an epitome of the science and practice of midwifery which embodies all recent advances." He has "endeavored to dwell especially on the practical part of the subject, so as to make the work a useful guide in this most anxious and responsible branch of the profession." The present issue is the result of a thorough revision of its predecessor at the hands of the author. It has likewise received the benefit of careful revision by Dr. Robert P. Harris, of Phila-