

This the last volume of the eleventh series is not behind its predecessors in its quota of interesting and instructive articles. There are thirty one papers under the headings of Therapeutics, Medicine, Surgery, Neurology, Pædiatrics and Dermatology, with a special article on the Keeping of Case Records in Private Practice, by Frederick Packard, M.D., Judson Deland, M.D., John H. Musser, M.D., J. P. Crozier Griffith, M.D., J. K. Mitchell, M.D., Alfred Stengel, M.D.

The first of a series of papers is given by Dr. Horatio C. Wood, jun., entitled a Description of the Methods of Investigating the Action of Drugs. He points out the fact that the older practitioners had not the advantage of seeing at college the methods of investigating drugs now to be observed in the modern pathological laboratory, and, as clinical methods do not give reliable results in ascertaining the true value of a drug, a description of recent methods will enable readers to interpret the results from the pathological laboratory. The present article considers the action of drugs on the circulation. The methods are described in detail and illustrated by lithographs of the various forms of apparatus used.

Prof. Albert Mathieu, of Paris, gives a special article on the Treatment of Muco Membranous Colitis, which is replete with practical suggestions. The relation of the local irritation and the general neurotic condition is pointed out and exhaustive direction given in regard to diet and local and general medication. The application of massage, hydrotherapy and moral hygiene in this affection is fully described.

Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., LL.D., contributes an article on Clinical Observation on Certain Diathetic Conditions. His thirty years of experience has enabled him to sift from the old doctrines of the diatheses, facts which are of great importance in understanding two groups of pathological conditions—the strumous diathesis and the arthritic diathesis. He proves conclusively the existence of these two tendencies, the liabilities associated with their presence, their antagonism to each other, and the important bearing of a recognition of this state on the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of these affections, and pays high tribute to the skill and acumen of our predecessors in the art and science of medicine who accomplished so much without the means of investigation which we now possess.

One of the most interesting articles in this number is that on Prognosis in Chronic Valvular Disease of the Heart, by J. Mitchell Bruce, M.A., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., London.

Prognosis should, he stated, not be empirical, but be based on the practical application of scientifically determined facts. The facts are those connected with the etiology, pathological anatomy, clinical character and course of the affection.

An old rheumatic lesion is a scar, an affair of the past and rarely progressive, and a favourable prognosis can be made; while in syphilitic or atheromatous changes we must forecast less favourably.