

half of whom are students of medicine. They are now so crowded in the infirmary that they have six students to every bed. I visited the room in which Sir J. Y. Simpson first tried chloroform by taking it himself before two of his *confreres*. An amusing account of it is given by Miller. The apparatus with which it was given was very formidable, and if the accoucheurs of the present day had to carry it around I am afraid many ladies would be confined without it. I had an afternoon with the only man living who had any intimate and close relationship with Simpson during his residence in Edinburgh. It is to be hoped that though nearly eighty years of age, he may find time to finish the life of Simpson.

The preliminary and primary training in Edinburgh is, I believe, the best to be obtained anywhere, but they require more hospital accommodation to give the requisite clinical advantages. With Heriot, Fetish and Donaldson's hospitals or schools for boys, the youth of Edinburgh have advantages in education ahead of all the world. R.

Book Notices.

Hand-Book of Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Therapeutics. By CUTHBERT BOWEN, M.D., B.A., editor of "Notes on Practice." F. A. Davis, publisher, 1888.

This little work is intended to be of value chiefly to students preparing for examination. It is well written and contains much information in concise form—the question and answer system being adopted. It will be a good companion to larger works for students.

Clinical Lectures on Certain Diseases of the Nervous System, by Prof. Charcot, translated by Dr. E. P. Hurd, for the Physicians' Leisure Library. Published by Geo. S. Davis, of Detroit, 25 cents a number. The translator prefaces a short sketch of the author's medical career, enumerating in an interesting manner his chief contributions to medical science. The lectures are mainly taken up with the discussion of hysteria, considerable prominence being given to

it, as it occurs in the male sex. The fact that it is Charcot's work stamps it with authority.

A Treatise on Hysteria and Epilepsy, with some concluding observations on Epileptic Insomnia, by I. LEONARD CORNING, M.A., M.D., is not nearly so strong a number of this series as the foregoing one.

A Treatise on Headache and Neuralgia, including Spinal Irritation; and a Disquisition on Normal and Morbid Sleep. By J. LEONARD CORNING, M.A., M.D., Consultant in Nervous Diseases to St. Francis Hospital, New York, etc. Publisher: E. B. Treat, 771 Broadway, New York.

This is a most excellent treatise on a subject of vast importance, from a general practitioner's point of view. The directions for treatment are plain and practical, especially in neuralgia and insomnia; and many of the methods recommended are such as will not be found in our ordinary text-books.

Favorite Prescriptions of Distinguished Practitioners; with Notes on Treatment. By B. W. PALMER, A.M., M.D. Publisher: E. B. Treat, New York.

This is simply a compilation, intended to suit the convenience of practitioners who are too busy or too lazy to read voluminous text-books. It makes no pretence of originality; in fact, its chief virtue is probably the absence of anything like originality. The prescriptions and notes on treatment are well chosen, chiefly from the writings of the best American physicians. A smaller number come from Great Britain and the Continent.

Exploration of the Chest in Health and Disease. By STEPHEN SMITH BURT M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine and Physical Diagnosis in the New York Post Graduate Medical School Hospital. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1889. Toronto: W. J. Gage. Price, \$1.50.

This manual is the outcome of requests by members of Dr. Burt's class for a work which would embody the methods pursued by him in his teaching of physical diagnosis. He has utilized the results of his experience, as well as the usual sources of medical knowledge in the construction of his book, and the outcome is quite