

spina in duas partes fissa, but that does not imply that there is a collection of water. I think, Hemirhachis says what it means, a fissure of the columna vertebrarum; and Hydrohemirhachis combines the malformation of the spinal canal together with a collection of water.

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

XXIV.—*The Microscopic Anatomy of the Human Body, in health and disease.*—Illustrated with numerous drawings in color, by ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M. B.—Author of a “History of the British fresh water algae;” Fellow of the Linnean Society; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, &c., &c., with additions to the text and plates, and an introduction containing instructions in Microscopic manipulation, by HENRY VANARSDALE, M. D., in two volumes. New York: Samuel S. & W. Wood. Montreal: B. Dawson.

During the past quarter of a century no other branch of medical literature has undergone so many marked improvements as Physiology. The science of the present day, might, without any violation of truth, be called a *novum organum*; for we fail to recognize between it, and that of former times, the familiar lineaments that characterize the ancestral structure. Of the dissimilarities that subsist, the review, now in progress of composition, only requires a notice of one in particular. It is, however, one which not merely occupies a salient position among an assemblage of indications, but one upon which these evidences are closely dependent for their applicability and integrity. It may still further be even considered as the one that constitutes the foundation, upon which the whole architecture is superimposed, and without which the superstructure becomes incoherent and unstable, tottering to the ground and laying strewn there in disorderly confusion.

Modern Physiology is based upon Microscopy and the initiatory part of its study is the ascertainment of the construction, properties and uses of the tissues of the body. These are first to be learned in their elementary existence as constituting ultimate entities, and next in their state of combination as forming compound structures. This department of knowledge is called Physiological Anatomy or Histology, and is not to be found elucidated in works upon Physiology, bearing an antedate of 25