

*Lectures on the Clinical Uses of Electricity.*—Delivered in University College Hospital. By J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in University College, &c., &c. Second Edition. 8vo. pp. 118. Philadelphia, LINDSAY & BLAKISTON, 1874.

We learn from the preface that these lectures, forming a special course, were delivered by Dr. Reynolds during the summer of 1870, in University College Hospital. A short-hand report by Dr. Gowers appeared at the time in the columns of the *London Lancet*. Subsequently, at the request of many of his pupils, Dr. Reynolds published a revised edition of the lectures with such additions and emendations as appeared to be desirable. The author wishing to render the work strictly practical has avoided all debatable ground, confining his remarks as closely as possible to ascertained facts as bearing on the clinical uses of electricity in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The opening chapter consists in general remarks on the clinical uses of electricity, and here the author points out in what cases this agent can be rendered efficient in determining the presence or absence of disease. For instance in alleged paralysis of one limb, the application of the electric current will detect a difference between the two should such a state of things really exist, so that this agent is most valuable in the discovery of a condition known to exist, and which will occasionally give much trouble and perplexity,—we allude to “sham ;” but, again, the necessity of caution is recommended, as it is not always advisable or just to accuse a patient of “humbug,” or malingering, simply because we are unable to detect an electric difference between two limbs, one of which the sufferer states he cannot move.

There are other conditions, however, in which electricity acts as a therapeutic agent of great value—cases in which its use will apparently effect an instantaneous cure. We say apparently, because although a change marked and