

Dr. Roberts intends his book mainly for students, his object being to give in a single volume such information as is necessary for those preparing for examination, and also to guide them in the acquisition of that Clinical knowledge so essential to the practitioner, and which can alone qualify him for the active duties of his profession. The author expresses a modest hope that the contents of the work will be, in some measure, found of service to the busy practitioner who may have but few opportunities for perusal of larger treatises or special monographs.

This work is divided into three sections : In section one, we have three chapters ; an excellent introductory chapter, showing the importance of a proper system of training. The mistake of walking through the wards of an hospital without some system of observation, or case taking, is fully explained. The necessity of a previous knowledge of disease or the theory of disease, is fully illustrated, and then the author proceeds to the method of case taking, mentioning in outline what is necessary to observe and record,—but not only does our author advise the careful noting of cases, he likewise recommends commentaries to be made on each case by the student, the advantages of which cannot be over-estimated. In chapter ii. of this section, the subject of causation of disease, is discussed, and chapter iii. is devoted to symptomatology. These are necessarily concise, but afford much useful information which is not to be met with elsewhere in the same clear and concise style. In the second section the author takes up certain morbid conditions which come properly under the heading of “General Pathology,” of which he considers it necessary to possess a comprehensive knowledge before studying them in connection with special diseases, such as Hyperemia, Dropsy, Hæmorrhage, Inflammation, Hypertrophy, Atrophy, Degeneration, and Fever ; to each of these subjects the author assigns a chapter.

Section III. is divided into two parts ; in the first is considered general diseases which affect more or less the