

seven leagued-boots strides of cerebral physiology and histology, to read Monsieur R'chet's book, and if they fail to find useful information in it, they must blame their own dulness,—not that of the author.

**HABERSHON ON DISEASES OF THE ALIMENTARY CANAL, &c.** Second American, from the third enlarged and revised English edition. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. Toronto: Willing & Willimson, .

To those who have read either of the previous editions of the above excellent treatise, no eulogy of the merits of the work in its present enlarged form, can be necessary. It is admittedly the most complete exposition of the various affections of the entire alimentary tract in our language. The work is illustrated by 192 cases, exhibiting the clinical and autopsical observances noted by the author. These cases comprise a very instructive variety of the diseases incident to the alimentive system in its whole extent, and exhibit the complications in which other affiliated organs frequently become involved, in consequence of extension of the primary morbid derangement.

The following abstracts from the author's preface, can hardly fail to lead the intelligent professional reader to form a favourable anticipation as to the sound rational principles which he will find to pervade both the theory and the treatment advocated throughout the book.

Dr. H. says, "Although I have sought definitely to distinguish some classes of diseased conditions, I should be very unwilling to regard them as entities superadded to the human frame, but rather, to quote the words of Sir John Forbes, 'as new phases of vital manifestations.' And again,—'it may be convenient, as we have mentioned, to regard life as the resultant of certain forces, and disease as a deviation from the normal direction. If any of the forces which are in natural operation be modified in intensity, a deviation is the result, and diseased action is produced, the resultant being necessarily changed; still the tendency is such that on the withdrawal of the modifying force, the normal course is resumed."

"Diseased action, as generally manifested, is the resultant, not of one, but of several changes in the normal condition, and very few persons are literally in perfect health."

"Numerous means are available for checking

and modifying diseased action, and we must protest against the ignorance of those who argued the draught of medicine as the only important agent. The skill of the physician is often most manifest in the suggestion of hygienic measures, which by many may be assumed as of trifling moment; and whilst it is perfectly true that many morbid conditions cease after a time, or that the frame becomes so accustomed to perverted action that the balance of functions is apparently maintained without cognizance on the part of the patient, still the aid of medical science is most important.'

Anticipatively alluding to his chapter on "Colic," Dr. H. uses the following valuable admonitory words: "We have very strongly urged the avoidance of drastic purgatives, calomel, colocyth, and even milder purgatives, and as strongly recommended the free administration of opium; the cases detailed almost uniformly show, that, where purgatives were given, vomiting, pain, and distress were increased, whilst these and other symptoms were, on the contrary, relieved by opium. Opium, in such cases, appears to be the best means of procuring relief to the bowels, if an action be possible." Of course where an action of the bowels is not possible, some formidable lesion, or mechanical obstruction is present, and then certainly avoidance of purgatives is still more imperative. We have a very abiding remembrance of a case of colic with constipation, in a keen-feeding negro, whose abdominal fulness and severe pain were very significant. An intelligent student, who was in prior attendance, asked if we would not prescribe a purgative. Certainly, we replied, and forthwith ordered six two grain opium pills; three to be taken immediately, and the other three to be reserved for further disposal. The patient soon fell into a sound sleep. In about three hours we revisited him, and found him out of bed, and engaged in bundling up the sheet, which had suffered under alvine deluge of huge dimensions. His purgative had acted faithfully.

We had fondly hoped that Dr. H. in the course of his treatise, would have found occasion for grateful recognition of the teaching of one writer, to whom modern rational medicine, in the theory and treatment of diseases of the alimentary canal, is perhaps more indebted than it was to all who preceded him, and we would almost venture to say, than it has been to half who have followed