

no doubt, is occasionally the precursor of phthisis, but it is well known that the desire for alcoholic drinks is often the result, not the cause, of the organic evil; besides, the great majority of drunkards die of other diseases; and as to "consanguineous marriages," if the two parties to the contract are of well-established physical soundness their offspring will have a very fair chance of escaping, not alone pulmonary phthisis, but also any other hereditary ailment.

Jaccoud's third variety of phthisis are those, he informs us, "in which the pulmonary tuberculosis, being spontaneous and independent of other diseases, could only be due to general debility, to that insufficient or improper nutrition which is the basis of all forms of phthisis." He calls these cases the first group. He constitutes a second group in which he places "those cases in which the pulmonary disease is connected with a constitutional affection, either past or present, and to the existence of which it may be rationally imputed."

As regards the spontaneity and independence of Jaccoud's "acquired phthisis," we had better defer criticism until more is known of the bacillus of Koch. Still, it would be a pity to bereave the eminent French clinician of any part of the small residue of that field of "curability" to which his endeavour has reduced his right of possession. His book well deserves attentive study, for it contains much that must be found of real practical value. Had it come from the pen of a less able and eminent author we might have bestowed less notice on it. Youthful practitioners are but too prone to indulge in over sanguine expectations, when they light upon any work bearing the prestige of high authority; and when they realize a succession of practical disappointments, a spirit of medicinal skepticism is likely to be engendered, which may ultimately prove pernicious to themselves and harmful to their patients. Do not give up the ship, but see to your ballast, and do not indulge in studding sails and sky-rakes, in a perilous sea. Be warned by the wrecks of other navigators, rather than learn the dangerous sea line by your own calamitous temerity.

WASTING DISEASES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD, by Eustace Smith, M.D., London. Wood's Library, April, 1885.

This work will be read with pleasure and profit

by every earnest practitioner of medicine. When we consider how large a proportion of all medical practice is presented in the diseases of childhood, we cannot but welcome any valuable contribution to so important a subject. The present issue is a reproduction of the 4th English edition. If we should single out any particular chapter of the book as of paramount value, it would be that one in which the author treats of "inherited syphilis," with which we find but one fault,—its brevity. But it is a *multum in parvo*. General practitioners in this country, but especially those residing in rural districts, may but seldom be confronted by inherited syphilis. This cannot be any reason for their avoidance of its study; rather indeed the very contrary, for exceptional cases are to be met with in all communities, and those to whom they are more familiar well know how puzzling they are, and how eminently important is their clear diagnosis. The practitioner must not deceive himself by expecting frank, much less, spontaneous, information from parents. In nine instances out of ten the soft impeachment will be repudiated, and not seldom disastrously resented—disastrously alike to the doctor and his innocent patient.

THE LAND OF ROBERT BURNS, AND OTHER PEN AND INK PORTRAITS. By J. Campbell, M.D., L.R.C.P., Edin., Seaforth, Ont. Sun Printing Office, Seaforth. Price, 75 cents.

We are glad to welcome this interesting work by our talented friend Dr. Campbell, of Seaforth, which we have perused with much satisfaction. We would especially note the chapter on the defence of Burns, the article on Sir Walter Scott, and also the reference to Knox and the Covenanters. The work consists in a series of letters written to the Seaforth *Sun* during a holiday trip to Scotland, a few years ago. These are now collected in the volume before us, to which has been added the valedictory address, delivered by the author on his graduation in McGill College, in 1869. The work is both pleasing and instructive, and cannot fail to interest a large number of readers. We congratulate our worthy confrère upon his success in the literary arena, and trust that the work will meet with a large sale.

ON MALIGNANT ENDOCARDITIS.—The Gulstonian Lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, London, by Wm. Osler, M.D., M.R.C.P., Prof. Clin. Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Reprinted from the *Medical News*. Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co.