

series printed by this publishing firm. These books are well got up, and wonderfully cheap for medical works. In the first part of it are well-executed colour plates of the urine, and throughout are clear woodcuts of the different instruments used in physical diagnosis. The chapters devoted to an examination of the organs of respiration and circulation indicate a thorough acquaintance with morbid and healthy sounds of the lungs and heart. The style is clear and epigrammatic—just such as a practitioner wants, who in his busy every-day work has not the time, and often not the inclination, to wade through the diffuse literature to be found on this subject. Of course, no books can teach to any one the normal and abnormal sounds of the chest. The ear and percussion must do this. The senses must be educated to this work, just as in childhood they teach us to rightly interpret the sounds of nature. The sounds in health are as necessary to be known as those in disease. We judge by comparison. The doctor's Shorter Catechism should be in every case as follows, viz:—

- 1st. What is the matter ?
- 2nd. What should be done ?
- 3rd. How should it be done ?
- 4th. When and in what order should it be done ?

The most important is the first. If that is not clear in a practitioner's mind, it is evident he is only indulging in hap-hazards as to the rest.

A book on Diagnosis does much to assist the reader to correct methods of investigation, and gives the experiences of previous observers in this important field of research. The book before us is one of the best we have read on diagnosis, and shows us how clear-headed the author is when discussing this paramount branch of medical research.

The Art of Prolonging Life. By CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM HUFELAND. Edited by ERASMUS WILSON, M.D. Lindsay & Blakiston, Philadelphia, 1880.

This little book, by Professor Hufeland, of the University of Jena, we are informed by the present editor, was translated into English in 1797, most probably by its author, but "has been less known than its merits de-

serve;" and, in consequence, Dr. Wilson undertook the present edition, "under the hope of being able to fill a vacant niche in popular literature." This is a very fair premonition, for the work is certainly quite as likely to interest the general reader as the members of the medical profession. It contains much information which may prove instructive and useful to those who desire a better knowledge of the grand secret of elongating life to its utmost attainable limits; and we presume this class is sufficiently numerous to warrant the expectation of a pretty general demand for the book. It is, however, a tolerably well-known fact, that the young and robust bestow but little thought on the subject of life economy. It is not until men have passed the meridian of life, and begin to feel those admonitions of physical declination which portend ulterior vital sunset, that they begin to think seriously of their prospect of protracted existence. The poet Young has most truly told us :

"All men think all men mortal but themselves;"

and just as the soldier at the close of a battle, surrounded by the mangled bodies of hundreds of his morning companions, clings more strongly to the hope of his own immunity, so would it seem to be with those who, in their journey of peaceful life, have seen their early associates one by one drop off, and "pass over to the majority."

Were it not that we must all be conscious of the destiny of the like infirmity awaiting ourselves, we might often be tempted to smile at the tenacity with which the aged hang on to their attenuated thread of life, and at the manifold devices by which they flatter themselves they may be enabled to spin it out to its last possible, or impossible, fibre :

"The tree of deepest root is found
Least willing still to quit the ground."

If such be the allotment of humanity, who can regard extreme old age as the prelude to a true *euthanasia*; and who would devote his time to the study of "*the art of prolonging life*" until it has become a wearying burden to himself and to all around him ?

Though it is not to be denied that the world has stood much indebted to some benefactors