

you come in contact with not to expose themselves to the contagion, and by showing consumptives themselves how to dispose of their expectoration so as to save those nearest and dearest to them from their own sad fate. We have for several years been urging this opinion on the profession, but it is no longer an opinion on which we may differ but one of the most clearly established facts in medicine. We almost blush when we think how slow the profession has been in recognizing this fact when they have so many opportunities daily of seeing its contagiousness exemplified. The only excuse we can find is the firm hold with which the doctrine of its hereditary transmission has possessed us for centuries.

BOOK NOTICES.

A TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.
By William A. Hammond, M. D., Surgeon-General U.S. Army (retired list); late Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, the University of the City of New York, and the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, etc., with the collaboration of Graeme M. Hammond, M. D., Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital; Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine; Member of the New York Neurological Society; of the American Neurological Association, etc., with one hundred and eighteen illustrations. Ninth edition, with corrections and additions. "Est quoddam prode tenus, si non datur ultra."—Horace. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1891. For sale by Foster, Brown & Co., 233 St. James St., Montreal. Price \$5 00.

We learn from the preface that this is the ninth edition of this valuable work which has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date by the author with the assistance of his son. The first edition was published in 1871, and since that time it has been translated into French, Italian and Spanish. Dr. Hammond enjoys a world-wide reputation as an authority on nervous diseases, and his work has for years been considered one of the standard ones. Space will only permit us to give some idea of the scope of the work as seen in the table of contents. First there is a finely illustrated chapter on the instruments and apparatus employed in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous system, followed by a chapter on electrical reactions normal and pathological. Section I. is devoted to Diseases of the Brain; Section II. Diseases of the Spinal Chord; Section III. Diseases of the Cerebral Spinal System; Section IV. Diseases of the Peripheral Nervous System; Section V. Diseases of the Sympathetic Nervous System; Sec-

tion VI. Certain Obscure Diseases of the Nervous System including Acute Ascending Paralysis, Myxoedema, Acromegaly, Myotonia Congenital and Symmetrical Gangrene of the Extremities; Section VII. Toxic Diseases of the Nervous System. After a careful perusal we feel safe to say that nothing that is definitely known concerning the diseases of the nervous system has been omitted. At the same time an examination of this work accentuates the impression that diseases of the nervous system and especially of that portion of it known as Great Sympathetic offers a wide field for accurate observation and investigation. Both general practitioners and specialists might all contribute something towards an accumulation of facts from which physiologists and pathologists deduce the laws which govern diseases of the nervous system. In the mean time Dr. Hammond's book is probably the best in existence on the subject.

PLAIN TALKS ON ELECTRICITY AND BATTERIES WITH THERAPEUTIC INDEX, FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND STUDENTS OF MEDICINE. By H. ratio R. Bigelow, M. D., Permanent Member of the American Medical Association; Fellow of the British Gynecological Society; Fellow of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association; Member of the Philadelphia Electro-Therapeutic Society; Member of the Anthropological and Biological Societies of Washington, D. C. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1012 Walnut Street, 1891.

A glance at this little book reveals the fact that Dr. Bigelow possesses the rather rare ability to envisage scientific information in such plain and simple terms that anyone can understand him. The book is exactly what it claims to be—a series of plain talks on electricity and batteries. The book is liberally illustrated so that the plain talks are made still plainer thereby.

ELECTRICITY, ITS APPLICATION IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY. A BRIEF AND PRACTICAL EXPOSITION OF MODERN SCIENTIFIC ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS. By Wellington Adams, M. D., Author of "Art of Telephony—By Whom Discovered," "Evolution of the Electric Railway," "Designs and Construction of Dynamo-Electric and Electro-Dynamic Machinery;" Lecturer on Electro-Therapeutics, University Medical College, Kansas City; Formerly Professor of Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat, Medical Department, University of Denver, and Editor "Rocky Mountain Medical Review." Volume I. 1891, George S. Davis, Detroit, Mich. Price 25 cents.

This is one of Davis' Leisure Hour series and is a very handy and useful little book. The author truly remarks in his introductory chapter that it is no uncommon thing to see a physician dodging around with a stereotyped form of medical battery in his hand proposing to destroy hair follicles by electrolytic action through the agency of a faradic current. At the present day, and with so many books within the reach of all, there is no longer any excuse for any one making these mistakes. As the writer says, we have to thank the gynecologists for having approached the nearest to a scientific exposition of the subject. We are often asked for the name of a good book on elementary electricity and we cannot in future do better than to recommend our correspondents to purchase this one.