

cary of the Montreal General Hospital, is severing his connection with that Institution. He intends devoting himself entirely to practice.

Dr. Leprohon, the Spanish Vice-Consul here, has been honoured by being created a Chevalier of the Order of Charles III.

#### ON THE USE OF MALTINE.

Dr. Fothergill says, in the *Practitioner*, that in order to aid the defective action upon starch by the natural diastase being deficient in quantity, or impaired in power, we add the artificial diastase, as "maltine." But, as Dr. Roberts points out in order to make this ferment operative it must not be taken after a meal is over. Rather, it should be added to the various forms of milk porridge or puddings before they are taken into the mouth. About this there exists no difficulty. Maltine is a molasse-slike matter, and mixes readily with the milk, gruel, etc., without interfering either with its attractiveness in appearance, or its toothsome-ness; indeed, its sweet taste renders the gruel, etc., more palatable. A minute or two before the milky mess is placed before the child or invalid, the maltine should be added. If a certain portion of baked flour, no matter in what concrete form, were added to plain milk, and some maltine mixed with it, before it is placed on the nursery table, we should hear much less of infantile indigestion and malnutrition.

#### SOCIÉTÉ MÉDICALE ANGLO-AMÉRICAINNE DE PARIS.

The English and American physicians resident in Paris have just organized a Society under the above name. Only those can be members who are legally qualified to practice in France. We see with pleasure that the Society has elected as its president Sir John Rose Cormack. This compliment is well deserved, Sir John being a universal favorite among the medical profession in Paris.

#### REVIEW.

*The Brain and its Functions.* By Dr. J. LUYS, Physician to the Hospice de la Salpêtrière. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros. Price \$1.50.

This volume, No. XXXIX of the International Scientific Series, is one of the best which has been issued, both from the importance of the subject

and the well-known ability of the author. The first part of the book is devoted to a consideration of the minute anatomy of the brain, as determined by the author's photo-microscopic process of analyzing the nervous elements. He dwells especially upon the intimate relations which exist between the cerebral cortex, the central ganglia and the periphery. He maintains that the function of the *optic thalamus* is to receive and reinforce sensorial excitations from the periphery, while that of the *corpus striatum* is to permit the passage of voluntary motor excitations. He claims that in the arrangement of the superficial small cells and deeper large cells of the cerebral cortex, there is a distinct analogy to the anterior and posterior tissues of the spinal cord. He agrees with Ferrier that the cerebral functions are localized, and has arrived at this conclusion quite independently by means of his anatomical researches. Part second, in which he discusses the physiological relations of the different nervous elements, is the most interesting and valuable portion of the book. He discusses the fundamental properties of nerve-cells under three principal heads:—

1. *Sensibility*—by means of which the nerve-cells receive impressions from without and react upon them.

2. *Organic phosphorescence*—by means of which the nerve-cells store up for a long time impressions which they have once received, just as certain inorganic bodies store up luminous vibrations and become phosphorescent. By virtue of this property of the nerve-cell, he explains in a very interesting manner the phenomena of memory, its method of development and functional disturbances.

3. *Automatic activity*—by means of which the nerve-cell reacts in the presence of surrounding media, if once it has been previously impressed by those media. That which is done habitually is finally done automatically, and becomes routine.

Dr. Luys' main endeavor throughout is to show that even the most complex intellectual processes follow definite laws, and may be analyzed and resolved into regular processes, and that consequently "there is a true physiology of the brain as legitimately established, as legitimately constituted, as that of the heart, lungs or muscular system."

The book, though in many respects fragmentary and incomplete, is on the whole entertaining and instructive.