

*The Practice of Medicine.* By HORATIO C. WOOD, A.M., M.D., LL.D. (Yale), Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Professor of Nervous Diseases in the University of Pennsylvania; Member of the National Academy of Sciences, and REGINALD H. FITZ, A.M., M.D., Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in Harvard University; Visiting Physician to the Massachusetts General Hospital; formerly Shattuck Professor of Pathological Anatomy in Harvard University. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. London: 10 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. Pages—X—1086. Price \$6.00. 1897.

This timely work from the pens of Drs. H. C. Wood and R. H. Fitz is the outcome, as stated by the authors, of an attempt to view the practice of medicine simultaneously from the pathologic and therapeutic points of view. While the subjects have been discussed with constant reference to the best that has been furnished by modern therapeutics and pathologic research, there is no lack of symmetry in their presentation. Definition, etiology, morbid anatomy, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, have received respectively what seems to us a wise allotment of space, and the careful joint consideration of the two eminent authors, although each author wrote certain determinate portions of the work. H. C. Wood prepared the section on nervous diseases (246 pages), including insanity, the articles on diseases of the muscles, the eruptive fevers, typhoid, typhus, and relapsing fevers, influenza (grippe), and dengue, the chapter on acute and chronic poisoning, and all the therapeutics of the book. The remainder of the volume, namely, the articles on diphtheria, dysentery, tuberculosis, leprosy and syphilis, the chapter on diseases of the blood and of the ductless glands, the chapter on parasites, and the sections on diseases

of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive and urinary systems, except the therapy, are from the pen of R. H. Fitz. The work is a gem on general practice, admirably written and exceptionally free from typographical errors. It will prove, we believe, to be a standard text-book and a most remarkable work of reference for busy practitioners.

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### Miscellany.

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OBSTRUCTION OF THE LACHRYMAL DUCT IN NEWBORN CHILDREN.—Landolt (*Annales de Gynéc. et d'Obstér.*) finds that this condition is not rare, and is often overlooked till much harm is done. The affection should be inspected whenever there appears to be conjunctivitis in one eye only a day or two after birth. The conjunctiva itself is not infrequently cured, so to speak, by appropriate lotions. The obstetrician, mistaking a complication or result for a primary disease, finds to his surprise that the eye continues to water, the lids becoming glued together, and a drop of pus often exudes from the inner canthus. This condition is yet more alarming in certain cases where no conjunctivitis has been observed. It looks like the beginning of purulent ophthalmia. Landolt lays down as a rule that obstinate unilateral lachrymation in a newborn child usually signifies obstruction of the tear duct. As an ophthalmic surgeon he advocates sounding of the duct with a fine probe; on no account should the canaliculus be slit up. Afterwards weak antiseptic lotions must be injected into the duct by means of an Anel's syringe; the infant must be turned on its face directly afterwards lest any of the lotion be swallowed.

THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLE OF THE THYROID.—Spoto (*Giorn. dell' Assoc. Napol. di Medici e Naturalisti*) believes the chief function of the thyroid is antitoxic, for, as the result