

After etherization he always forcibly dilates the sphincter, so that it shall not recover its contractile power for a week. An excellent chapter upon Prolapse is presented, and the assertion therein made that the statements of the text-books are misleading as to the infrequency of descent of all the coats of the bowel, and as to the constant presence of a sulcus as indicative of this condition. Polypus is properly, as we believe, stated to be much more frequent than is commonly supposed, especially in children. "A fibrous polypus is always attached well above the sphincters, and a hæmorrhoidal tumour is confined to its own locality below, and has a broad base of attachment." In an admirable chapter upon Abscess, two good old rules are duly enforced, viz., *early incision, and always in a line radiating from the anus as a centre.* Free incision of the hard, gristly walls of old fistulæ is highly commended, and for bleeding after the operation the subsulphate of iron in strong solution freely applied, or dusted on in powder, is efficacious and serviceable. In the chapter on Ulcer of the Rectum, dysentery is pronounced to be an unusual cause. Two chapters are devoted to Benign Stricture, and the following classification is adopted:—(1) Congenital (or the Valvular), (2) Cicatricial, (3) Fibrous, and those from proliferation or hyperplastic exudation tending to become fibrous, as in Syphilis. In our opinion, the small round or oval masses of dejecta are no more pathonomic of stricture of the rectum than are the ribbon-shaped. A very necessary caution against the employment of any force in endeavouring to pass a stricture, whether with finger or bougie, is earnestly enforced. "Bougies," it is properly said, "should be slightly conical at the beak, eight or nine inches long, gently curved and constricted at the base, so as not to distend the external sphincter while in place; or else six inches long, conical at either end and introduced within the sphincter." From this description it will be seen how shockingly deficient bougies are as commonly met with in the shops, and our own experience tells us how dangerous they are from their *rectitude* and rigidity. Complete longitudinal section is recommended,

when feasible, as an operation of fair promise in the radical treatment of Benign Stricture; and in doubtful cases excision is advised as an alternative for complete longitudinal section preferable to colotomy. As an antiseptic injection after excision our author declares against thymol as being inferior to carbolic acid in his experience. The lecture upon Cancer is one which every surgeon should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest; but, in truth, the same remark is equally applicable to the other eleven. The performance of the publisher's part leaves nothing to be desired, and we trust that ere long the volume may be found in the bookcase of every practitioner in the land.

*A Treatise on Diseases of the Joints.* By RICHARD BARWELL, F.R.C.S. Second edition, revised and much improved. New York: William Wood & Co. 1881.

That, after a lapse of twenty years, in this age of progress a second edition of a standard surgical work should be a desideratum is but natural, and especially is that the case in the subject of joint-disease upon which so much has been written by eminent surgeons since the appearance of Mr. Barwell's first edition in 1861. The labours of a reviewer are in general sensibly lightened when a book has stood the test of twenty years and not been found wanting in anything except those additions and emendations which time and experience render necessary, and in this respect Mr. Barwell has ably done his work. A great point in this book is the care which is taken to give a clear, concise and accurate description of the pathological anatomy of joint-diseases, due credit being given to the opinions of other observers, home and foreign, no matter whether those opinions coincide or not with the author's. Chapter one is devoted to a brief exposition of the normal histology of the various structures entering into the formation of joints. After chapters two and three on simple and suppurative synovitis comes one of the most readable and instructive in the book—that on "Pyæmic Joint-Disease," containing as it does views decided, though to some extent at variance with those held by many on pyæmia and septicæmia, diseases of which so much remains to be discovered.