

Book Reviews.

Histology and Pathology. By John B. Nichols, M.D., Demonstrator of Histology, Medical Department Columbian University, and F. P. Vale, M.D., Assistant in Pathology, Medical Department University of Georgetown, Washington, D.C. In one handsome 12mo. volume of 452 pages, with 213 illustrations. Cloth, \$1.75 *net.* Flexible red leather, \$2.25 *net.* Lea Bros. & Co., Philadelphia and New York.

This work is the newest of Messrs. Lea's excellent series of pocket text-books, and illustrates the growing tendency to break down the barrier between student and practitioner. Text-books used to be written for students alone, for practitioners were supposed to be done with books forever.

Another valuable principle recognized in this work is that pathology, for the most part, is only histology gone astray. The two are here included between one set of covers in a moderate compass of less than five hundred small and well printed pages, and all very attractive to the eye and to the hand.

No attempt is made to explain in words what can only be learned in the doing, that is to say the book is not "practical," because no book can be practical since practice is an affair of the hand. It does contain, however, in a convenient form a good statement of the observations and results acquired by hand-workers in both of these subjects, indeed everything which it is lawful for a student or practitioner to know. Nor are the higher problems in pathology left untouched, for there is interesting mention made of fever, immunity, susceptibility and other phenomena of a like obscure nature.

The authors, Dr. Nichols and Dr. Vale, set for themselves a definite task to present the essential facts of histology and pathology in a concise and systematic way. They have insisted upon arrangement and convenience more than upon originality, and laying aside disputed doctrines in pathology they have succeeded in presenting these two subjects in a concise and attractive way to those who may require to learn them for the first time, or who may afterwards desire to refresh the memory.

An illustration which illustrates nothing is of no value; if it misrepresents, it had better be omitted. Many of the illustrations fall in one or other of these classes. Some of the photographic reproductions, especially of the nervous system, are as meaningless as those in an English medical journal, and many of the drawings, such as those of the intestinal ulcerations, take up much space with no adequate benefit. The drawings and diagrams in the histology section are really illustrative and illuminating. Last of all, the book being designed for the pocket, it would be in harmony with this design if the thirty-one pages of catalogue at the end were given up to something more immediately useful than a list of Messrs. Lea's publications, excellent as all these publications are.

A. M.