

in additional information on many most important points. Dr. West's field for observation has been a most extensive one as "physician to the Hospital for sick children" in London; and that his opinions are deserving of great weight may be assumed from the fact, that these lectures "embody the results of 900 observations, and 288 post mortem examinations made among nearly 30000 children, who during the past twenty years had come under his care." Such are the opportunities which the author enjoyed, and in the work lying on our table which embodies the results of those opportunities, he has shown his own capabilities as a thoughtful, judicious, pains-taking and cautious writer, thoroughly skilled in the management of infantile diseases, and, what is not always met with in the same individual, capable of imparting his ideas to others, in an attractive lucid style.

The present edition differs from those which preceded it, in the addition, of one new introductory lecture, the second in the series, and of two by the same author, but inserted by the publishers, at its conclusion. The whole three lectures are on important topics. Thus the second of the series which follows the introductory one, and which may be regarded as a continuation of it, is "on the treatment of children's diseases," a most important subject; while we have already specified the titles of the last two, both of which are on matters of equal interest.

It will be seen by a glance at the subjects discussed in these three lectures how important they are to the practitioner, especially to the junior practitioner, although the senior may derive profit and advantage also from their perusal.

After laying down in his first lecture a series of important rules for the guidance of the physician in investigating the diseases of children, all of which are of the highest moment, the author proceeds in his second lecture to give general directions for their treatment, having chiefly reference to the nature and doses of the remedies employed, based upon the susceptibility of the little patients to their action, and he dwells at some length on the employment of bloodletting emetics and purgatives, blisters, and sedatives. On these points we propose briefly to follow our author, and see how far his precepts are applicable to our Canadian climate and the susceptibility of our young patients in it.

With regard to the *abstraction of blood*, it is judiciously observed that bleeding from the arm is scarcely admissible before the age of three years, in consequence of the smallness of the vein, and the fatness of the arm. Bleeding from the jugular is preferable, but the necessity of practising it is rarely required, except in cases of convulsions succeeded by profound coma, or acute inflammatory croup. In this country also, cases requiring this operation are also very rarely encountered; and here as in England, recourse is more usually had to leeches. On this point however the author observes that it is better, when the abstraction of a large amount of blood is demanded, to use a large number of leeches than a small number, and permitting the bites to bleed under some emollient application; because in the former instance we can always determine with tolerable accuracy, the amount withdrawn—two drachms to each leech—and arrest the operation at once; while in the latter, the quantity withdrawn is always unknown, and might be productive of alarming symptoms.