

## Book Notices.

*Method for Performing Post-mortem Examinations.* North Carolina Board of Health, Raleigh, N.C.

*First Annual Announcement of the Homœopathic College of Physicians and Surgeons of Buffalo.* Session 1879-80.

*Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Tennessee, at its 46th Annual Meeting, 1879, Nashville, Tenn.* We intend to refer to these transactions in a future issue.

*History of the Discovery of Anæsthesia,* by J. MARION SIMS, M.D., M.A., LL.D. From *Virginia Med. Monthly*, May, 1877; Richmond, 1877; New York, 1879.

*The Treatment of Epithelioma of the Cervix Uteri.* By J. MARION SIMS, M.D., (reprint from *Am. Jour. of Obstet.*) July, 1879. New York: William Wood & Co.

*A New Removable Paper Brace for the Treatment of Caries of the Spine, and of Lateral Curvature, by the Insertion of a Rubber Band to Exert Continuous Pressure over the Deformity,* by AP. MORGAN VANCE, M.D., Junior Assistant, Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled, New York.

*Pocket Therapeutics and Dose Book.* By MORSE STEWART, jun., B.A., M.D. Second edition; revised and enlarged. Detroit: George D. Stewart 1878. Cloth, \$1; morocco, \$1 30. Contains doses, tables of weights and measures, metric weights and doses. Abbreviation, classification and action of medicines. Formulæ for spray vapor, and hypodermic medication. Tables of solubilities, incompatibles. Index of diseases and remedies; signs of pregnancy; poisons and antidotes, symptomatology, &c., &c. This is a *multum in parvo* of a kind that we do not think much of. Most of the contents should be carried in the head of the physician and not in his pocket. Such ready remembrancers, are apt to engender habits of laziness. The book is good of its kind.

*Man's Moral Nature—An Essay.* By DR. R. M. BUCKE, Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, London, Ont.

It is often necessary at the outset in the review of new books on scientific subjects, to ascertain the exact meaning authors attach to their phrases and words. This often saves a good deal of controversy. This is the more necessary in a book, said by the author, in the announcement, to "deal with the deepest problems of man's life," "to contain by implication a philosophy of art, and a philosophy of religion, and supplies a new key to universal history." It is said to be for the "use and interest of all men who are desirous of some explanation of the meaning of themselves and of the universe in which they live." It is quite evident that a book which can do this in even a faint degree is no ordinary production. Some writers are fond of adopting a nomenclature of their own, and of coining words to suit their ideas of correct meaning. Others use phrases well understood, and in common use, but wrest them from the accepted standard of interpretation, and others often do injustice to themselves by leading the reader to suppose that they are either wilful in oddity, or ignorant of the exact definitions unanimously agreed upon by the literary world. We feel impelled to make these remarks, after reading this book of Dr. Bucke, upon "Man's Moral Nature." There are a number of novel ideas put forth in this excellently got-up book, and couched in such unusual language, that, in justice to the author it is necessary to know what is meant by many of the expressions used. The title of the book is an evidence of this. The author says: (page 13,) "that moral nature is a bundle of faculties, and that the most of these faculties are called passions and emotions, —and that love, faith, hate, fear, are the most prominent functions of the moral nature, if they are not indeed the whole of it." If there be any meaning in words, it is hard to see how any of these passions and emotions can be the sum total of our moral nature, or even any part of it. Our moral nature refers solely to *moral judgments*. It is our sense of right and wrong,—simply this and nothing more. We can love, have faith, hate and fear, yet not ex-