

aspect, have recently issued from the press. The present volume, so far as it goes, offers no exception in general excellence to the most of them. It has what to some must appear a fault: to wit, its *conciseness* (414 pages, 8vo.); but to the bulk of busy practitioners, this, together with its comparative freedom from technicalities, constitutes a main recommendation. There are few points connected with the subject that are not (though necessarily very briefly) touched upon; in fact, it only professes to be an outline for the guidance of those whose opportunities for the study of this branch may not have been so extensive as they could have wished, and who must therefore trust in great measure upon handy volumes, such as this, to render their future practice, if not safe, at any rate not altogether mischievous. The work is illustrated by several well executed plates and diagrams, in explanation of the principles and employment of the ophthalmoscope, and contains, besides, a series of Test-Types, from I to C C, on the plan of Snellen.

BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.

Wiring of the Lower Jaw for Fracture.

A vertical fracture of the lower jaw between the two middle incisors was produced by the kick of a horse. During the four days following the injury, while the patient was in the hospital, numerous attempts were made to retain the fragments in apposition by means of wire carried around the teeth, by a gutta percha splint moulded beneath the chin, and the same within the mouth over the teeth, but they were all unsuccessful, as the fragment on the left side could not be kept up on a line with the other. On the fifth day an operation for wiring was done by Dr. Cheever. The lower lip was drawn down, and without any cutting of the soft parts the jaw was drilled with the revolving chisel just below and a little to the outside of the alveolus of the lateral incisor on each side. Through the two holes thus made two pieces of stout copper wire, silver-plated, were passed, and twisted on both the anterior and posterior surfaces of the jaw, as the wire was not sufficiently flexible to allow it to be introduced at one hole, turned on the inner side of the jaw, and then withdrawn through the other. The fragments were thus brought into firm apposition.

Following the operation, the fragment on the left side was found to sink a little, but the deformity was more apparent than real, as the teeth were naturally irregular; the line of the gums was good. After the first ten days there was but trifling salivation.

Though the plating entirely disappeared within the first week, the presence of the copper wire was borne with very little inconvenience, and with no toxicological effects, for thirty-three days, when it was removed. The fracture was then firmly united.—*Med. and Surg. Journal.*

Miscellaneous, &c.

Amateur and Regular Physicians.

A writer in *Britannia* pays the following well merited tribute: "For gentleness, courage, endurance, perseverance, true benevolence, commend me to a regular physician. I know no profession so crowded with brave, noble natures as the medical profession. They are the repositories, and in nearly all cases, the faithful repositories, of terribly delicate secrets. They have greater power than any priest can have, to blast the happiness of many men and women. Bound by no sacred vow, like the priest, their own consciences, their own high sense of honor—aye, if you will have it so, their self-interest—keeps them faithful to their trust. No class in the world have more opportunities of doing good, and avail themselves of those opportunities more assiduously than doctors. In the hour of fear, of despair, how we fly to them! In the pangs of sickness, in the agony of death, how we doubt, how we cling to them! In the hour of health, of joy, of hope, of confidence, how we slight them, how we abuse them!—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

Mercury, Podophylline, and Taraxacum.

The supposed Cholagogue action of.—The exhaustive and carefully conducted experiments of the Edinburgh Committee of the British Medical Association conclusively show, that neither mercury, podophylline, nor taraxacum have any cholagogue action whatever. Mercury given to dogs has no effect on the biliary secretion so long as neither purgation nor impairment of health are produced, but where the health suffers, the amount of bile secreted diminishes considerably. Podophylline was found to diminish the secretion of bile, whether purgation was produced or not. Taraxacum had no effect whatever when given in doses of the extract varying from 60 to 240 grains.—*Braithwaite, January, 1870.*

Books Received.

- The Cell Doctrine, by Dr. Tyson. Lindsay and Blakiston. Philadelphia.
 Diseases of Children. By Meigs & Pepper. Lindsay and Blakiston. Philadelphia.
 Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology. W. Wood & Co. New York.