

to give it up for the present, and concentrate all your energies on the work which now lies before you. For, as Milton expresses it :—

“Not to know at large of things remote
From use, obscure and subtle, but to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom ; what is more, is fume
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence,
And renders us in things that most concern,
Unpractised, unprepared, and still to learn.”

REVIEW DEPARTMENT.

ART. LVI.—*On obscure diseases of the Brain and Disorders of the Mind, their Incipient Symptoms, Pathology, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prophylaxis.* By FORBES WINSLOW, M. D., D. C. L., Oxon. Philadelphia, Blanchard & Lea, 1860. 8vo. pp. 576.

In this volume Dr. Winslow has given to the world a body of information on Psychological Medicine, of a most interesting character. He has gleaned from every country and from many sources ancient and modern, details and cases which have never before been collected, and which throw much light on the more obscure diseases of the brain and disorders of the mind. The work will be found of much interest by the practitioner and the student, as introductory to the study of mental alienation. It does not indeed pretend to be a system of psychological medicine, but is, as its author expresses, the *avant-courier* or introduction to a practical work upon which he is engaged, in relation to the specific types of encephalic disease.

Coming to us in this guise, it would be scarcely fair to subject the work to the severe scrutiny and criticism which a more pretentious production would merit. The volume is evidently intended as much for the general reader and the student of mental philosophy, as for the medical practitioner. And we prognosticate for it, especially on this continent, an extended popularity among the reading public. Dr. Winslow's style is genial, graceful, eminently clear and always agreeable. His account of the morbid phenomena of intelligence, of the irresistible impulse to suicide in the homicidal maniac, of the rapidity of mental action in dreams, of recklessness in monetary transactions in some incipient phases of mental disorder, of motiveless acts of brutality connected with latent insanity, of the mysteries of the inner mental life, and the innate wickedness of the human heart, are all alike interesting and instructive.

As an example of the felicitous style and apt illustration which abound in the work, we select the author's remarks on “The mental acuteness and subtlety of the Insane.”

Whilst analyzing the incipient symptoms of insanity as manifested during the stage of exaltation and excitement, it will not be irrelevant for me to consider an important