

Reviews and Notices of Books.

The Practice of Surgery. By THOMAS BRYANT, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. With Five Hundred and Seven Illustrations. Royal 8vo.; pp. 934. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea. 1873.

A surgical text-book, short, pithy, and yet containing much that is sought after by students and practitioners, appears to us to be a want. The excellent works of Gross and Erichsen have, within the last few years, so enlarged their borders as to come more under the heading of extended treatises, wherein will be found the science as well as the art of surgery. Not that we would have it inferred that Mr. Bryant's book is lacking in either of these particulars. When we look back at our earlier days of student life and remember the compact little works of Druitt and Fergusson which held rank as surgical text-books for students, we cannot but feel that the surgical student of to-day possesses advantages that we lacked, and at the same time should, if he makes good use of his time, be better prepared to enter on the earnest duties of the practice of his profession. Custom, if not the requirements of the age, has obliged authors of the present day to elaborate, not to epitomise.

In the introductory remarks the author gives general instructions what symptoms to observe, and how to observe them. He remarks: "The art of surgery, to be successful, must be based on the science, and the science is, without doubt, based on observation." He goes on to give general instructions to the surgical student in the method of case-taking, and shows the great, the urgent necessity for obtaining a careful clinical history before attempting a diagnosis. "For example, when the surgeon is called to see a man who has been picked up in the street, and is insensible; who is, in fact, in an apoplectic condition, and has, at the same time, some external evidence of injury to the skull; he may, perhaps, also smell of spirits, and thus another element of difficulty has been added." A careful probing as to the nature of such a case is the only means the surgeon has to save himself from error which in some instances would be fatal to the patient. All points connected with any surgical accident or injury should be carefully noted and unravelled. "Too much time cannot be bestowed upon the task, for to treat an apoplectic seizure