

## Books and Pamphlets.

CYCLOPEDIA OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—  
 Edited by Dr. H. VON ZIEMSEN. Vol. XIV.  
 Diseases of the Nervous System and Disturbances of Speech. New York: Wm. Wood & Co.  
 Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

We have received from the publisher the 14th volume of this extensive work. Professor Eulenberg of the University of Greifswald, deals exhaustively with the subject of Vaso-Motor and Trophic neuroses including Hemisrania, Angina Pectoris, Unilateral Progressive Atrophy of the Face; Basedow's disease—characterized by palpitation with accelerated pulse, swelling of the Thyroid gland and exophthalmus; Progressive Muscular Atrophy; Pseudo-Hypertrophy of the Muscles—evidenced by an abnormal increase of size in certain muscles, accompanied by a diminution or loss of their functional energy, the direct cause of which is chronic disturbance of the nutrition of such muscles; and True Muscular Hypertrophy. The subjects Epilepsy and Eclampsia are treated of by Professor Nothnagel. He considers that the designation eclampsia should be made use of for those cases of epileptiform spasms which independently of positive organic disease, present themselves as an independent and acute malady, and in which so far as our present knowledge allows us to judge, the same processes arise generally in the way of reflex excitement, and the same mechanism in the establishment of the paroxysms, comes into play, as in the epileptic seizure itself. Hughlings Jackson considers that the great tendency of the nervous system in childhood to react upon peripheral sensory excitement, is due to the fact that the nervous system of children is in the first place still undeveloped, and in the second is undergoing development. The treatise on Tetanus is written by Professor Bauer. He considers it inadmissible to consider tetanus as an inflammation of the spinal cord, as was formerly done. The anatomical changes of the cord do not support such a view, as they are also too inconstant. Neither can the existence of a degenerative process, with proliferation of connective tissue in the sense indicated by Rokitansky be proved. This anatomical explanation appeared from the beginning to be insufficient to account for the symptoms, since the anatomical changes correspond to no

single form of disease, but the same changes are found in connection with very different diseased conditions. In certain stages, tetanus may be confounded with cerebro-spinal meningitis, even with tubercular basilar meningitis, and both give rise to stiffness of the neck. But in the two latter there is rarely trismus, and the accompanying symptoms of both would prevent any prolonged mistake.

Catalepsy is treated of by Professor Eulenberg. The etiology of uncomplicated, idiopathic catalepsy is almost entirely unknown. Eulenberg assumes that catalepsy belongs to the large class of diseased conditions designated by Greisinger constitutional neuropathies, whereby its near connection with other neuroses of this group, hysteria, insanity, epilepsy, and chorea is indicated and also that a predisposition dependent upon congenital preformation of certain portions of the central nervous system generally precedes the appearance of the cataleptic attack. Professor Eulenberg treats also in this volume of tremor, paralysis agitans, and of an affection somewhat resembling paralysis agitans that he designates *Athetosis*. This affection was first described by Hammond in 1871 as a combination of symptoms somewhat resembling paralysis agitans, the chief characteristic of which is a ceaseless motion of the fingers and toes, which does not permit them to remain in any position in which they are placed. Hammond supposes the seat of the affection is in the intercranial ganglia or upper portion of the spinal cord. Chorea, is taken by Professor Von Ziemssen. The dance of St. Vitus made its first appearance as a wide spread mental disorder in the second half of the fourteenth century in the neighbourhood of the Rhine. Under the magistrates' orders those affected were led in troops to the chapel of St. Vitus, that they might be quieted by processions, masses, &c., &c. Subsequently the name chorea St. Viti was extended to the sporadic cases of spasmodic movements of the body. To Sydenham is due the conception of chorea as now entertained, and the separation of it from the foreign element, the term then being applied, of the chorea minor sive Anglorum in contradistinction to the chorea major sive Germanorum. Von Ziemssen considers that the group of symptoms called chorea major is not a disease *sui generis* but is only the product of genuine psychosis and cerebral maladies on the one hand, and of hysteria and wilful simulation on the