

As a reliable guide for such a course, suitable for both boys and girls, this little book, written in a very pleasant, plain and interesting style by Mr. Houghton, is the best we have seen.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs in Infancy and Childhood. By LOUIS STARR, M.D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.

Among all the diseases which come under the observation of general practitioners, none are more important than those of the digestive organs in infancy and childhood. The author of this very excellent manual devotes considerable space to minute directions as to hygiene, proper food, and methods of feeding. A chapter on the investigation of disease is very practical and instructive. Among the diseases treated are affections of the mouth, throat, stomach, intestines, liver, and peritoneum. A very valuable chapter is given on the general management of children, treating especially of feeding, bathing, clothing, sleep, and exercise. Upon the whole the book is one of great merit, and well worthy of careful study. Too many of our infants and children die from the diseases here treated, and many of such deaths are preventible if physicians would diligently study their cases and carefully pursue the lines indicated by Dr. Starr.

Hand-book of the Diseases of the Nervous System.

By JAMES ROSS, M.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co.

In commencing to read a new work on diseases of the nervous system, one dreads the attempt of mastering a subject now so vast and requiring such careful and minute study. The present work gives in a book of moderate compass an enormous collection of facts, the result of work done partly by the author himself and partly by others.

The first seventy-six pages are taken up by an account of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System. In the remainder of the first part the author deals with the Morbid Anatomy, general Pathology and Treatment. Special Pathology of the Nervous System occupies the remainder of the volume. Contrary

to the general rule, the diseases of brain and spinal cord are not taken up separately. This is, we think, an advantage, as the two parts, the brain and the spinal cord, are so intimately connected that we cannot draw a sharp dividing line in describing many of the diseases of these organs.

The last eighteen pages are taken up by General Diagnosis of Nervous Diseases. This chapter is written with great ability, and will assist the practitioner in unravelling the very complex symptoms which frequently present themselves in many nervous cases.

The book is an admirable one, and we can confidently recommend it to the profession.

Rheumatism: Its Nature, its Pathology, and its Successful Treatment. By T. J. MACLAGAN, M.D. Octavo, 285 pp., illustrated. Supplied only to subscribers for "Wood's Library of Standard Medical Authors," for 1886 (consisting of 12 vols. price \$15), of which this is Vol. IX. New York: William Wood & Co.

In the year 1876, Dr. Maclagan introduced salicin to the notice of the profession as a remedy in acute rheumatism. He then referred to the miasmatic nature of the poison of rheumatism. This theory is further elaborated in the work before us.

Upon the nature of the disease his conclusions are as follows:—(1) "That rheumatism consists in inflammation of the white fibrous and serous tissues of the motor apparatus, and especially of those portions which are subject to active movement and strain, and (2) that this inflammation is specific in nature—the result of the action of a special poison circulating in the blood." The special poison he considers to be of miasmatic origin, and to consist of minute organisms. He treats the disease under two heads—rheumatism of the loco-motor apparatus, and rheumatism of the vasculo-motor apparatus. The author places great stress on the treatment of the disease by means of the salicyl compounds. He prefers the use of salicin to that of salicylic acid, for the reason that the former may be given freely without fear of such untoward results as those which sometimes follow the administration of large doses of