

a certain improvement in the tone of those vessels, whereby a more normal circulation was occasionally deranged by a transitory excitement of the vascular apparatus. That the eye was fully able to distinguish the most minute objects, was perfectly evident, and a demonstration that the nervous matter of the retina was only influenced more or less positively by the vascular hypersemia. Even at the worst stage, the power of distinguishing form was not totally lost, and in the latter stages was perfectly regained, while colour could not be truly appreciated.

This case would appear to stand prominently forward, as illustrating the advantages of a knowledge of minute anatomy to the surgeon; and forcibly points out the danger of quackery in ophthalmic diseases, while it also demonstrates that the distinction of the retina into several tissues is founded upon fact, and that each of them may be more or less individually submitted to the influence of disease.

### Reviews.

*" Examination of the Sap of the Sugar Maple Tree, the Acer Saccharinum of Linnæus, with an account of the preparation of the Sugar. By GEORGE D. GIBB, M.D., Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, St. Lawrence School of Medicine, Montreal; Honorary Member Addisonian Literary Society of Montreal; Corresponding Member Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, &c. &c."*

It is certainly quite refreshing to meet, amidst the "stern realities" of purely professional reading, an occasional dash at something apart from the ordinary routine of professional topics; to see the mind which in its earlier training for the more severe studies, had also acquired a decided taste for, if such a phrase so applied be admissible, some of the collateral sciences, a knowledge of which is considered absolutely indispensable to a perfectly educated physician. Such recreation, for such it undoubtedly is both to the zealous student of scientific medicine, and to those who benefit by his labour and learn to enjoy its fruits, braces the mind and renovates its vigour, as change of climate and scene affect the corporeal strength and constitutional tone. By it the intellect becomes refined and expanded, a desire for knowledge is engendered, and we are taught to love science for its own beauty and to respect it for the power which its acquisition confers.

We rejoice therefore to see one among ourselves leaving the ordinary beaten track, and cultivating an acquaintance with nature and the appliances of art, in a field within our daily observation—among the productions peculiar to our country. Such is the course adopted by the author of the paper now under review, and