

in pathology. Following on the therapeutic scepticism and nihilism which resulted from too close attention to Nature's failures in cure, as illustrated by dead house pathology, this revival of interest in treatment must be particularly gratifying to the general practitioner.

Dr. Tirard's book is one of the kind to which we have referred. It is conservative in so far as it has retained the good things which the accumulated experience of years has endorsed in treatment, and it is progressive in that it deals with the latest advances in scientific therapeutics.

The work is one which will give satisfaction.

PUBLISHER'S DEPARTMENT.

The extensive use made of Heroin in clinical practice during the past one and one-half years, and the abundant literature that has already appeared on this new preparation, enables us to formulate some positive conclusions as to its definite status in the materia medica. One of the most striking features of this drug is its remarkable action upon the respiratory organs, its effect consisting in the reduction of the number of respirations, with an increase of their force. Besides this it exerts a sedative influence upon the air-passages, as evidenced by the alleviation of cough and irritation. Heroin has also been employed as a general analgesic, but it is yet too early to form a positive idea of its utility in this direction. It is worthy of note that in the literature thus far published very little reference has been made to after-effects, and these for the most part have been of mild degree and observed chiefly in cases where the dose has been excessive. Like any active remedy, heroin must be used with proper discrimination and in doses adapted to the age and to the indications present. Professor Manges (New York Medical Journal), who has made a most exhaustive clinical study of heroin, writes as follows on this point:—"The general conclusion is that these effects have occurred in a surprisingly small percentage of cases, when it is borne in mind that in so many instances the larger doses (one-sixth of a grain) have been employed. Even the effects which have been recorded are only relatively simple, and in no case was there any serious effect noticed. These after effects are decidedly of less frequent occurrence and of milder degree after heroin than those from morphine or codein." If attention is paid to these points no special precautions are necessary in the use of heroin, except such as apply to any remedy in the pharmacopeia. To obtain the best results it should be administered in much smaller doses than the opium alkaloids, and these may later be increased if necessary. Prof. Max Einhorn (Philadelphia Medical Journal) concludes on the ground of his experience: "It will be readily seen from the above that we possess in heroin a very valuable therapeutic agent. It principally allays cough and eases respiration, but it has also general analgesic properties which renders it of benefit in most painful affections. Except slight dizziness and occasionally dryness in the throat, which I found but rarely, I have never seen any unpleasant symptoms even from a prolonged use of heroin, and I can heartily recommend it as a very valuable remedy."