

skin diseases. Part II. comprising some 200 pages is devoted to therapeutics (electricity and cautery included). The plan pursued here is to take up the recognized affections of the skin in their alphabetical order, briefly note their definition and description, diagnosis, prognosis, and etiology and then deal *in extenso* with the treatment. The author's name is a sufficient guarantee of the thorough and scientific character of this part. We can only add the latest researches and most recent contributions to the subject appear not to have been overlooked. A fair formulary is appended but we see no notice of green soap.

*The Diagnosis of Diseases of the Spinal Cord.*

By W. R. GOWERS, M.D., F.R.C.P. Second edition, with additions and illustrations. London: J. and A. Churchill, New Burlington Street. 1881.

The first edition of the reprint of this lecture, delivered in 1879 before the Medical Society of Wolverhampton, was soon exhausted in consequence of the favourable notice it received at the hands of the medical press, and the admirable manner in which it was found to fill the great lacuna until then existing in English medical literature. Indeed, apart from Charcot's lectures on the Cord, we have not met with any work dealing so fully, philosophically, and lucidly with the intricate, and barely investigated subject of which it treats. Here we find set forth in brief, but with that lucidity of style and breadth of grasp which, in his other writings, have already made this youthful and accomplished author famous, the Medical Anatomy of the Spinal Cord, Its Physiology in relation to its Nosological Symptomatology; The Anatomical Diagnosis and the Pathological Diagnosis of the affections to which it is subject, together with the citation of illustrative cases; the whole made plainer by a score of wood-cuts and a coloured plate illustrating some ten sections of the cord in some of its more important lesions. Within the small compass of 84 pages the work covers so much ground that want of space forbids our following the discussion of the many controverted questions involved. Suffice it, e.g., to say that the section

on tendon reflex which was before imperfect and inaccurate has, in this edition, been rewritten and now certainly presents the most rational description and explanation extant. The term Tendon Reflex is condemned; and myotatic contraction suggested in its stead, it being satisfactorily demonstrated that the phenomenon depends on muscle reflex irritability alone. Few books have been published in recent times from which so many men will learn so much.

*The Hygiene and Treatment of Catarrh.* By THOMAS F. RUMBOLD, M.D., St. Louis. G. O. Rumbold & Co., St. Louis. 1881.

The author has for a number of years given enthusiastic attention to the elucidation of his favourite specialty; and we regret that the work in which he incorporates the results of his labours and experience should be marred by defects which are not trivial. In the first part, published separately a few months ago, the various hygienic and sanitary measures appropriate to catarrh are pretty fully considered. The baneful effects of tobacco on the naso-pharynx and tympanum are forcibly set forth. The author takes ground against the nasal douche, which he, in common with many others, has found to be often both ineffective and injurious; and he advocates the use of sprays, the snuffing of liquids from the hard sponge, &c.

In the second part, tubal and aural as well as naso-pharyngeal catarrh, with the therapeutic and operative measures involved, are considered. At various points the author steps out of the beaten track, and sometimes reaches conclusions which do not accord with the dicta of the authorities. He holds that the air continually permeates the Eustachian tube into the tympanic cavity, and that this passage is not open during deglutition; that the air in the tympanum is normally rarefied, causing the uniform concavity of the drum-head. Abnormal patency of the Eustachian tube is regarded as not infrequent, though too often unrecognized.

There is a good deal of useful and suggestive matter in the work, but its construction is bad, and the frequent allusions of the author to him-