

has often been blind on certain topics. It required a John Hunter to create pathology, a Pasteur to give us bacteriology, and its bearing on medicine, and patients were dying by tens of thousand till Lister came forth with antiseptic surgery. All these men were opposed by the leaders of their day. Many valuable advances in medicine and surgery have come from those who were not regularly of the healing craft. In the matter of the treathment of the spine and, through it, other diseases, a good deal had been done by those who would be called "quacks." But the work of the "rubbers" and "manipulators" caused some of the medical profession to look into the claims of these people. For long the medical profession paid no attention to suggestion; but Messmer, Braid, and others, made it clear that there was much in suggestion. Dr. Albert Abrams, in this volume, goes to show what there really is in "spodylotherapy"; and he has succeeded in showing that there is a good deal in it. In the first place, there are many troubles of the spinal region that give their possessors much annoyance. In the next place, that through the spinal-cord reflexes distant organs are influenced very markedly. And then, finally, he shows that suggestion plays here an important role. Spondylotherapy may, therefore, cure or relieve a very troublesome local condition; or it may stimulate the cord, and in this way act on some organ; and then, again, it may act on the mind and greatly improve the condition of those who may be afflicted with the "blues." Just because this book is unique in many ways, we advise all who can to read it. Criticize it if you will; but read it anyway. Hamlet said: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

DEAFNESS.

The Nature and Causes of Catarrhal, "Throat," or Hereditary Deafness, and Explanation of Paracusis Willisii, The Mechanism of Aural Accommodation, The Regulation of Labyrinthine Fluid Pressure, The Tightening of Relaxed Tympanic Membranes and Joints, The Relief of Tinnitus Aurium. By Charles J. Heath, F.R.C.C., Late Surgeon Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden Square, London.

The condition where a patient can hear better in a noisy place than he can in a quiet one, is an interesting condition. Some of these patients can hear better in the midst of noises than those whose hearing otherwise is good. This form of deafness, the author contends, is due to a relaxed condition of the chain of bones in the middle ear and the membranes. Taking this view of these cases, he holds that the treatment by inflation with air is quite wrong. This form of deafness has been caused by violent blowing of the nose, where the tympanic cavity is forcibly distnded. In other words he lays down the statement that a