

ology, and articles in the chapters treating of Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, Cholera, etc.

RHEUMATISM: ITS NATURE, ITS PATHOLOGY, AND ITS SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT. By T. J. MacLagan, M.D.: New York, W. Wood & Co.

This is a valuable book. The publishers seem to have known the fact, for they have not hung out any broom. Perhaps the author has no string of medico-algebraic signs of unknown quantities, from which to construct a caudal flourish. Whether so or not, we have been thankful for the absent appendages, and we entered on the perusal of the book with the determination of judging of its merits according to the evidence presented by the contents.

The style is clear, simple and inviting, and the diction is happily free from those grammatical oversights which too often disfigure the pages of some other treatises issued by American publishers.

The book consists of twenty chapters, in which the following subjects are treated of. 1st. The varieties and symptoms of Rheumatism. 2nd. The duration of Rheumatism. 3rd. The seat of Rheumatism. 4th. The nature of Rheumatism. 5th. The nature of the Rheumatic poison. 6th. The Lactic Acid theory of Rheumatism. 7th. The Miasmatic theory. 8th. The nature of Malaria. 9th. Its mode of action. 10th. Rheumatism of the loco-motor apparatus. 11th. Rheumatism of the vasculo-motor apparatus. 12th. Endocarditis. 13th. Pericarditis. 14th. Myocarditis. 15th. The treatment of Loco-motor Rheumatism. 16th. The mode of action of the Salicyl compounds in Rheumatism. 17th. The treatment of Vasculo-motor Rheumatism. 18th. Cerebral Rheumatism. 19th. The relation of Rheumatism and Chorea. 20th. Rheumatic Hyper-pyrexia.

These headings certainly present an appetising bill of fare. The reader will not be disappointed in either the savor or the digestibility of the viands. The author shows that he is well acquainted with the existing literature of his subject; and the modesty and impartiality evinced by him in his criticisms, merit high commendation. It is to be hoped that succeeding writers, who may question the soundness of his views, will be governed by a similar delicacy.

Perhaps the points most inviting to demurring

criticism, will be found in his views on malarial poison germs as the *sine qua non* efficient factor in the causation of rheumatism, and his consequent committal to this lately born morbid agent: and in inevitable association with this must come his advocacy of Salicyl as the appropriate germicide. His repudiation of the lactic acid theory of rheumatismal causation, must also provoke controversy. It may, too, seem strange to some readers, that the profuse sweatings, provoked, as he says, by redundancy of lactic acid in the blood, should be the efficient cause of the high degree of bodily heat in certain cases of acute rheumatism. Sweating has heretofore been regarded as a natural cooling process, and it is doubtful whether the cutaneous irritation caused by this substance, may not be compensated by the process of coincident evaporation attendant on it. It may also be alleged by scrupulous critics that Dr. MacLagan is rather forward in his assumption of the existence of a thermal centre in the cerebro-spinal axis. At all events it is questionable, as yet, whether it is quite safe to locate this centre in the medulla spinalis at the point assigned to it by the author. His *a priori* arguments, in advocacy of this structural provision, as an arrangement complementary to those of other corporeal functions, are ingeniously plausible, and well worthy of the reader's serious attention. The final chapter, on Hyper-pyrexia, in which this matter is ably treated of, will not fail to command the admiration of every lover of fledgling theories. It is truly a captivating production, and it is well worth while to peruse assiduously all that precedes, in order to reach this dazzling culmination.

Finally, we are constrained to say, that if all the monthly issues, or even a handsome minority, devoted by the enterprising house of Wm. Wood and Company, to the medical profession, were as well deserving of approbation as this treatise of the tailless Dr. MacLagan, medical science would be largely enriched.

A TEXT-BOOK OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY, INCLUDING HISTOLOGY AND MICROSCOPICAL ANATOMY, with special reference to the requirements of Practical Medicine. By Dr. L. Landois, Prof. of Physiology in the University of Gröfswald; with additions by William Sterling, M.D., Sc.D., Brackenbury Prof. of Physiology and Histology in Owen's College, Manchester, etc. Second