

The Diseases of the Stomach. By William M. Van Valzak, A.M., M.D., Professor of General Medicine and diseases of the digestive system in the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, and J. Douglas Nisbet, A.B., M.D., Adjunct-Professor of General Medicine and diseases of the digestive system in the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. Illustrated. Price \$3.50. W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut st., Philadelphia, 1898. Canadian agents, J. A. Carveth & Co., Toronto Ont.

In this volume of six hundred and fifty pages we have a distinct addition of great merit to medical literature. An examination gives the impression at once of a *sui generis* production and the evidence of emanating from men possessing originality in a high degree and a true appreciation of what are the needs of the general practitioner and student. The classification is somewhat different to that adopted by most authors—it is more simple, and avoids describing as distinct diseases what are only the functional signs of disease.

There are six sections in the book; three are devoted to general subjects and three to special. Section two, on diagnosis and diagnostic methods, is one worthy of careful study, as the power to make a proper examination and a correct diagnosis must necessarily precede a properly directed and successful form of treatment. The authors warn against too much dependence on the results of the pathological chemistry of digestion to the ignoring of what can be learned by the older methods of investigation. Diagnosis thus explained is a logical method, proceeding by analysis, synthesis, comparison, and is a methodical procedure. They are considered here under the headings of clinical history, the physical signs, the functional signs, the bacteriological signs and the anatomical signs. Each of these subjects are considered in minute detail, and all the modern apparatus used in diagnosis, many of which are shown in cuts such as Ewald's Einhorn stomach lamp. Kuhn's pyloric sound, Strauss' apparatus for lavage and inflation, Boas' aspirator, etc. The qualitative and quantitative tests for the various secretions of the stomach are described with clearness.

The chapters on diet and general treatment are full and explicit. Two-thirds of the book is devoted to the consideration in details of the various special diseases of the stomach, beginning with the sensory dynamic affections; butimia, acarin, parorexia, anorexia, nervosa, gastralgia nervosa, hyperaesthesia, gastrica; then the dynamic affections of secretions: adeno-hypersthenia gastrica, hyperchylia gastrica. Adenasthenia gastrica, then the motor dynamic affections and myasthenia gastrica, then gastritis ulcer of the stomach and neoplasms and displacements. Section six is entitled the Vicious Circles of the Stomach, referring to the effects of derangement of the stomach on other organs and systems, and finally the affections which induce secondary diseases in the stomach. The physician who needs a modern guide in the affections of the stomach written in a clear style, thoroughly practical and fully representing the present status of our knowledge in this important and common class of ailments cannot do better than secure a copy of this excellent work.