

must refrain from making what might seem invidious selections. Why cannot the Ontario Medical Association follow the example of Medical Societies of many of the States of our neighbouring Republic, and issue an annual volume of proceedings and papers that would compare favourably with those of any Medical Society? It would certainly tend to improve the character of the papers read and the discussion thereof, if an annual volume of the proceedings of the Association were published in an economic manner. Surely Ontario can do what Michigan has done.

*Hand-book of Diseases of the Ear.* By URBAN PRITCHARD, M.D. (Edin.) Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1886. 207 pages.

This is a work which we have read with much pleasure. The author intends it only as a hand-book for students and general practitioners, and it is wonderfully well adapted for those who only wish a general insight into affections of the ear without having the leisure to wade through the more copious works on the subject. The various diseases are, generally speaking, treated in a manner concise, yet interesting and sufficiently full. The chapter on the measurement of the hearing power as a whole is very good, although the tuning-fork test for the internal ear seems to us a trifle complex and requiring much practice to be of use. Rinne's method answers pretty well the same purpose, and is much simpler. The subject of non-proliferous (or adhesive) catarrh of the middle ear has been too briefly dealt with, considering how common the affection is. The author seems to have included this to a great extent with simple chronic non-suppurative catarrh. The author's results of this treatment of ruciner's disease are much better than one is generally taught to expect.

*Gout and its Relations to Diseases of the Liver and Kidneys.* By ROBSON ROOSE, M.D., F. O. S. Third edition. London: H. H. Lewis, 136 Gower Street.

Although we meet with but few cases of

typical gout in this country, yet we are confident that it often exists in a suppressed or modified form, and remains undetected. Many diseased conditions of the digestive organs, of the bronchi, and of the skin, are due to a gouty diathesis, and can only be successfully treated when such causation is thoroughly understood.

In the work before us little attention is paid to the typical form which is easy of diagnosis, and the larger part is devoted to a description of the more obscure and modified manifestations of the disease. The author has had great practical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of the malady, as is evidenced in every page of the work. We would strongly recommend its perusal to the general practitioner. We are confident that a thorough study of this diathesis will lead to more intelligent and successful treatment of a class of affections larger than is generally supposed, which are the result of hereditary gout. In the discussion of that vexed question, the nature of gout, the author gives the following propositions: (1) Uric acid in the form of sodium urate is the *materies morbi* of gout. (2) The deposit of the sodium urate in the joints is the cause of the gouty inflammation. (3) This substance is produced in excess, as a result of the imperfect transformation of albuminous substances. (4) This imperfect transformation is for the most part due to functional disorder of the liver, or to excessive supply of nutritive materials, or, as often happens, to a combination of these causes. (5) So long as the excess of uric acid is eliminated by the kidneys, decided attacks of gout may be absent; but the symptoms above described, as pertaining to the uric acid diathesis, are liable to be present. (6) The kidneys are apt to become secondarily affected, owing to the irritation set up by excess of uric acid and other products of defective metamorphosis, and by deposits of urates. Primary disorder of the kidney is not a necessary factor in the production of gout. (7) In the majority of cases of chronic gout, increased production of uric acid is associated with defective elimination by the kidney. (8) The symptoms of nervous disorder in gout are due to the action of the *materia peccans* on the nerve centres.