

Reviews and Notices of Books.

DISEASES OF THE LIVER, GALL BLADDER AND BILE DUCTS.—By H. D. ROLLESTON, M.A., M.D., (Cantab) F.R.C.P., Physician to St. George's Hospital, London, Philadelphia, New York, London. W. B. Saunders & Co., 1905. J. A. Carveth Co., Toronto.

Although differing in method of approach and treatment of the subject, this volume of Dr. Rolleston's is assured of taking the position as the standard authoritative work of reference in our language on the subject of the liver and its diseases, held for so many years by Murchison. The times are changed, and whereas Murchison in the sixties could with advantage, largely base his presentation of the subject upon personal experience, since then so detailed has been the study of individual conditions of disease, so wide a field has been opened for observation and experiment, that to-day no one man can pretend by personal observation to cover a tithe of the ground. To compress all the necessary matter into the limits of a single volume there can be no leisurely writing about and around each condition discussed: the treatment has to be direct, the abundant work of other observers has to be duly recorded, and success or failure depends on the way in which the work of others is abstracted, balanced and sifted, and given its proper place and value. When we recognize the conscientious way in which Rolleston has performed this part of his task, and observe the results obtained, we are not surprised that the volume is the outcome of no less than twelve years of steady work. By this we do not mean to indicate that the work is in any sense a mere compilation; on the contrary almost every page shows the fruit of the author's own experience, by his constant reference to cases seen and studied at St. George's; the treatment is individual to a very high degree; but the value of the work lies almost equally in the honest presentation of the other results of other observers. As Dr. Rolleston states in his introduction, the literature of the subject is enormous, and though he has omitted to insert full bibliographies at the end of each chapter, the reference to individual articles consulted and quoted, given at the foot of each page, must upon rough calculation be considerably over three thousand. There must of course, be omissions—an occasional valuable paper must be overlooked; that by Palmer Howard on Cirrhosis in Children is not mentioned, though it may be said to be included in Musser's later work; but how thorough the study has been may be suggested by the statement that we have counted no less than fifty-eight reference to work emanating from Canada—to the writings of Graham and McPhedran from Toronto. of Lafleur, Ross, Osler (before he migrated), Adami, Nicholls, M. E. Abbott, Ford, Gillies and Klotz from