

congestion, and there were several points of adhesion, apparently normal, to the costal pleura, the result of a severe pleurisy in the early part of life. When well, he had often told me that he had these adhesions.

It appears to me, that, in cases like those reported in the *Chronicle*, as much may be attributed to local capillary congestion from the impaired state of the respiratory function, as to any direct pressure on the sympathetic nerve within the chest.

REVIEWS.

ART. VIII.—*Epilepsy and other Convulsive affections, their Pathology and Treatment.* BY CHARLES BLAND RADCLIFFE, M. D., Physician to Westminster Hospital, etc. Second edition, revised and enlarged. London: Jno. Churchill, New Burlington Street, 1858. pp. 383.

An idea has been cherished by many minds that without a correct pathology there can be no proper treatment of disease. For unless an exact understanding exists concerning the nature of a given case, its management cannot be safely undertaken with any prospect of benefit to life, or escape from impending evil. A statement so fair, so plausible, is liable, as experience too frequently shews, to carry away, by its so-called common-sense power, the popular assent, and evade the scrutiny of its own merit, be this real or fictitious. We plead for our frankness, and look to the support of candid observers, in unhesitatingly declaring that this idea is no better than a chimera. Were it true, one of two alternatives must follow, either that we have not yet reached the proper treatment of disease, our pathology being incorrect, or that the pathology being found, our treatment continues unsettled. Either supposition necessarily follows from the consideration of the occurrences of everyday life. There, practice and theory—performances and principles—are sadly at an issue; strange contradictions and wild inconsistencies abounding in rich profusion, as nobody can deny. Men are found entertaining the most opposite opinions upon some common subject, and yet in practice a strong similarity, or positive identity marks the means which each brings to the relief of his patients. Men, again, there are, favored with a unity of scholastic views, who, when the season arrives for their practical application or employment, adopt and pursue sanitary measures the most strongly differential in intention as well as in operation.

These remarks are borne out by the subject now under review. What is Epilepsy? The general principles of *power* and *debility*, *tone* and of