

Books Received for Review.

The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion. Part I. Vol. I. *Medical History prepared under the direction of* JOSEPH K. BARNES, *Surgcon-General, United States Army.* By J. J. WOODWARD, Assistant Surgeon, United States Army, with appendix pp. 1091. Imp. Quarto. Washington: Government Printing office, 1870.

War, at all times a calamity, is occasionally inaugurated when least expected, and when nations are least prepared for the emergency. Such appears to have been the case with the American nation, when, in 1861, the South Carolinians opened fire on Fort Sumpter. America had enjoyed a peace of nearly fifty years,—if we except the border difficulties, which were not participated in by the nation at large, nor did they in any way interfere with peaceful mercantile pursuits.

At the time that Sumpter was fired into, the Southerner did not calculate the consequences with his usual astuteness, nor did the Northerner look forward to four long years of bloody strife with his hostile brother of the South. War though it be hatched in hell, is very frequently followed by a blessing from on high. Certainly, in the case of America it has purged that great country, with all its boasted freedom, of the foul stain of slavery; so that although it must be admitted that the American war of rebellion was, while it lasted, an undoubted curse, yet it has been followed by the highest blessing that heaven can bestow on any nation—"Equal rights to all."

At the out break of the war so changed were the circumstances that in due time it was found that the returns for sick and wounded then in use by the United States army were quite inadequate and very defective. William A. Hammond, M.D., the Surgeon General of that period, issued