

practice. His death took place at Pakenham, Ontario, on the 4th of February. Amiable in disposition, he was much liked by those who knew him best.

Reviews.

Surgical Diseases of Infants and Children. By M. P. GUERSANT, Honorary Surgeon of the Hopital des Enfants Malades, Paris; Honorary member of the Societe de Chirurgie. Translated by Richard J. Dunglison, M.D., Philadelphia; Henry C. Lea, 1873: Montreal; Dawson Bros.

M. Guersant in this book, gives us the results of his experience while surgeon to the Hopital des enfants Malades, Paris; and in the first chapter gives some useful hints as to the preparation of the patient, performance of operations, and after treatment, not neglecting the all important point of hygiene. He advises, "whenever circumstances will permit, to make a change for the patient from one room to another," as it gives "an excellent opportunity to renew the air alternately in the room which he has just quitted, and which he will re-enter when thus purified and warmed, or not, according to the season." He gives a long chapter on Fractures, going fully into the distinguishing features between those of the adult and the young. According to his experience, fractures of the thigh were the most common, after which came those of the fore-arm. He says that complications are attended with less danger at this, than to any other period of life.

The article on tracheotomy in croup, is the most valuable in the book. In most cases, where the operation is performed, he says, "croup cannot be looked upon as a disease, purely restricted to the larynx or the respiratory apparatus; but very often, though only characterized by the presence of a false membrane limited apparently to the larynx alone, it is caused by a general condition existing in the whole economy, and which, like a poison, infects it with more or less intensity." He gives the indications for the operation and the contra indications very minutely and goes fully into the after-treatment and the accidents that may happen, both during and after the operation. He advances nothing new while speaking of hypertrophy of the tonsils, vesical calculus and the different modes of dealing with it. His opinion on the causes of diseases of the joints, coincide pretty nearly with the authorities on this

side of the Atlantic, in not referring the chief cause to scrofulosis, but we think he might have gone a little more fully into the pathology of hip-joint disease, to which he gives the name of coxalgia. He hardly mentions the operation for excision of the head of the os femoris; in thoractenesis, he does not hesitate to operate early, as he thinks, in most cases, where the operation has failed, it has been due to delay. M. Guersant has given us a good readable book, and it well repays perusal. It is not a systematic work, but treats only of those subjects wherein he has had most experience.

Report of the Inspector and Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, at Toronto, for the year ending October, 1, 1872.

The kindness of the Superintendent of the Toronto Asylum for the Insane, Dr. Joseph Workman, has placed on our table the above pamphlet. No one who is aware of the admirable management which is characteristic of this institution, or of the eminent abilities of its Superintendent, as a psychologist, but will be prepared to find in the report much worthy of commendation, and not a little which, although tersely expressed and embraced within small compass, is worthy of close study by all who take an interest in the treatment of the insane. There is much truth in the following extract from page 8 of the Report:—

"It is a mistake to believe that Sabbath-day preaching to the insane is the best means of religious instruction or consolation. Every case of insanity has its own peculiar delusions and requirements, which are to be learned and ministered to only by means of individual experience. A sermon which may be suited to a miscellaneous congregation of sane people, may not be equally profitable to an insane assemblage, however discreetly selected. I have known instances of patients, misapplying, perhaps, the preacher's words, going direct from church service to suicidal attempts. There is one in this house, whose restoration I regarded as consummated, until I had the misfortune of giving her leave to go outside to church. What she there heard horrified her, and has continued to do so. How appropriate the discourse may have been to a congregation free from all taint of insane tendency I cannot say, yet how few congregations may there be in which incubating insanity is absent."

The Report makes allusion to the transfer of warrant patients from gaols, who, it appears, are rapidly