

*Application des Sciences à la Médecine.* Par le Dr. EDOUARD FOURNIÉ. pp. 731. Paris: A. Delahaye. 1878.

THIS work, by a physician who is well-known for his interesting investigations on deaf-mutism, and for his valuable observations on the mental attributes of animals as compared with man, or comparative psychology, is divided into two parts. The first is an historical account of the development of medicine, pursued biographically from the time of Hippocrates to the present time, and the second is a description of the application of physics, chemistry, and biology to medicine. In the first part the names, the knowledge, and the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Vesalius, Harvey, and Bichat, are brought into prominent relief, whilst many others are noticed. We think the author has sometimes failed to give to several of the leading spirits of past ages space commensurate with their merits, whilst others are discussed at too great a length. Hunter is dismissed in ten lines, whilst V. Helmont has a page accorded to him. There is a good account of the gradual development of the cell theory, and the author calls MM. Cornil and Ranvier, who have just published a work on histology, to task, for attributing to Schleiden and Schwann doctrines in regard to cells which were originally advanced by M. Dutrochet. He denies that the cell, as maintained by Virchow, fulfils or performs a function; this deplorable mistake, he says, is at the bottom of the false views now prevalent. The cell lives, but it does not act.

The second part of the work, occupied with the application of the physical and biological sciences to medicine, may be more briefly dismissed. The reader will find here mention made, with more or less description, of registering apparatuses, of dynamometers, thermometers, areometers, manometers, of the cardiograph and sphygmograph, of pneumatic apparatus for applying increased or diminished pressure of air for therapeutical purposes, aspirators, of various forms of apparatus for illuminating internal cavities, as the ophthalmoscope, otoscope, laryngoscope, endoscope, splanchnoscope, and specula, of the hæmatocytometer, and of the various apparatuses in use for the application of electricity.

The last sections of the work refer to the application of chemistry, botany, and zoology to medicine, and include an account of the improvements in general hygiene for which medicine is indebted to chemistry and the other branches of natural history, as by the analysis of air and water, the detection of adulteration in food, the determination of the constitution of the blood, lymph, urine, and other fluids, the practical deductions to be drawn therefrom, and the employment of new drugs obtained from the animal and vegetable kingdoms. This part of the work, which will prove valuable to all who wish to know what has been done during the last few years, is enriched by many excellent illustrations.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Medical Chemistry, including Outlines of Organic and Physiological Chemistry.* By C. GILBERT WHEELER, Professor of Chemistry, University of Chicago. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston. 1879.—The title of this book is misleading; it should have been "Organic chemistry considered in its relation to medicine." By stating that the work includes outlines of organic chemistry, the author implies that a considerable portion of the book is devoted to inorganic chemistry. This is not the case. From beginning to end it is nothing but a treatise on organic chemistry. A medical man purchasing this work under the idea that he would find useful hints with respect to such matters as water analysis, ready methods for detecting common forms of food adulteration, or an account of the chemical processes re-

quired in pharmaceutical operations and toxicology, would be grievously disappointed, and instead of such practical material would find at least one-third of the pages devoted to formula, bewildering, not to say useless, to the ordinary practitioner. Had the author given some such title as we have suggested, a mistake of this kind would have been unlikely to occur, and its character as a textbook of organic chemistry would have been clearly defined. Regarding the book, therefore, in this light, we think it may prove useful to the students of the University of Chicago and other American institutions, where, according to the author's preface, "medical chemistry has not yet secured sufficiently pronounced attention to create a demand for textbooks of considerable size or extended scope."

*Renal and Urinary Diseases.* By WILLIAM CARTER, M.B. Lond., M.R.C.P. Lond., Physician Liverpool Royal Southern Hospital. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1878.—An interesting collection of cases of renal disease, which will be found valuable for reference rather than for systematic perusal. It is a class of work which is extremely useful, as the record of practical observation always is, but, beyond the consciousness of having done honest work, bringing, we fear, but little recompense to the author.

*Clinical Temperature Charts and Case.* Arranged by Dr. HADDON. Manchester: Holderness and Co.—These useful little charts supply a want. They contain on one side diagrams showing pulse and temperature. Between the diagrams there is space to note the respiration, and at the foot room to record treatment, whilst at the back are ruled spaces to note previous history and progress of case. The morocco portfolio is of a most convenient size, and will hold a considerable number of charts.

*The Plague as it Concerns England.* From Official and other Sources. London: Hardwicke and Bogue. 1879.—This is a small octavo pamphlet of sixty pages, which explains very concisely and in a lucid style the "situation" at the present moment of the plague question as it affects England. The material is gleaned from official reports, the writings and evidence of Mr. Simon and Dr. Seaton, and papers by Mr. Netten Radcliffe. We recommend it to the attention of all who desire to know the exact state of sanitary law and practice on this important subject, and do not care to, or cannot, weed it out of Blue-books and other Parliamentary documents. It is one of the cheapest shillingsworths recently published.

*Notes of Statutes affecting the Public Health Act, 1875, from 1875 to 1878 inclusive.* By J. V. VESEY FITZGERALD, Esq., B.A., of the Inner Temple and Midland Circuit, Barrister-at-Law. 8vo, pp. 49. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1879.—This is a necessary and well-arranged supplement to Mr. Fitzgerald's edition of the Public Health Act, 1875.

## Analytical Records.

### LEGUMINOSE.

(HARTENSTEIN & CO., CHEMNITZ, SAXONY; AND BENEKE, 72, MARK-LANE.)

This preparation appears to consist of a mixture of leguminous and cereal flours. The proportion of flesh-formers in leguminous meals is too high for ordinary dietetic purposes, and the idea of preparing a mixture in which the non-nitrogenous constituents of food are incorporated in definite and calculable quantity, is, therefore, a sensible one. We understand that mixtures in various proportions can be obtained, so that the physician may give what he thinks the proper quantity of flesh-formers.