

amount of adverse criticism from scholars. Those who understand the working of the human heart better than the intricacies of the Greek language discover irrefragable evidence of Luke's professional instincts and bias in the account he gives of the healing of the woman who had "an issue of blood twelve years." The writer of the second Gospel, with (perhaps unnecessary) profusion of detail, relates that the woman "had suffered many things of many physicians and had spent all that she had, and was nothing better, *but rather grew worse*" (v., 26). Luke's statement, on the other hand, is given in more general terms, and omits the circumstance that the poor woman was worse rather than better for the money she had spent on the doctors. The omission is certainly remarkable, and not without some significance.

Les Hystériques: Etat Physique et Etat Mental; Actes Insolites, Delictueux, et Criminels. Par le Dr. LEGRAND DU SAULLE. J. B. Baillière et Fils. 1883.

PROBABLY all physicians would agree with the opinion that hysteria as we know it and hysteria as witnessed by the French is very different, not perhaps so much in nature as in degree. To the English student of medicine it would almost certainly be a great waste of time to read a French work on hysteria, we mean only so far as concerns the actual practice of physic in England. The present work is one of considerable size; the matter is of a readable kind, well digested, and evidently comes from the mind of a physician well versed in the study of mental and nervous disease. Nothing else could be expected from an observer of Legrand du Saullé's experience and standing. The first chapter considers sufficiently all the alleged factors in the etiology of the disease. The opinion is stated that the neuropathic disposition is the most efficient element in the causation. The author does not seem inclined to regard flexions and versions of the uterus as having much to do with the origin of hysteria. We fully endorse this opinion. The various corporal manifestations of the complaint are amply dealt with in the second chapter. Hypnotism, as observed in hysterical patients, is considered in the next section, and Charcot's contributions to the theory of the subject, the dominant idea of which is the hyperexcitability of the neuro-muscular apparatus, receive a prominent place. Disorders of the mental faculties met with in hysteria receive lucid descriptions, and the part is illustrated by accounts of interesting cases; the multiform character of the disease is nowhere better shown than in this relation. At the close of the chapter an endeavour is made to harmonise all the facts with physiological teachings. We fully sympathise with the trial; the result could only be tentative in the present state of knowledge. Hysterical Mania is the title of the next part. Here many clinical observations of cases of delirium, with hallucinations, of suicidal impulses, and transient erotic manifestations are recorded; the rarity of actual dementia is insisted upon; and the delirium of drunkards and hysterical delirium are compared with one another. The epidemic features of hysterical mania are also pointed out. The medico-legal aspect of hysteria is a subject with which Du Saullé is perfectly "at home." This section, which constitutes a third of the contents of the volume, is profusely illustrated with records of cases which for depth of interest and wealth of incident fully vie with the most realistic novels of French literature. The last chapters are devoted to questions relating to the nature, prognosis, and diagnosis of the disease; its treatment receives short but sufficient attention. In an appendix the author treats of nymphomania, which he regards as a different affection from hysteria, although the two may be combined in the same individual. Erotomania is separated from nymphomania; the former is a disease of the imagination not characterised by the excessive use of the physical organs.

Revue Mensuelle des Maladies de l'Enfance. Avril, 1883. Paris: Lauwereyns.

THE April number of this journal, which appears to have the collaboration of many eminent French physicians, contains original articles on the Treatment of Congenital Phimosia by Preputial Dilatation, on the Headaches of Young People, and on the Treatment of Infantile Maladies by the Waters of Bourbonne-les-Bains. Of these, the last, by Dr. Mercier, is perhaps the most important and deserves further consideration. We are disappointed not to find detailed statements as to the modes of application of the Bourbonne treatment and of the special indications for particular methods. There is also given a classified synopsis of recent contributions on children's diseases, by French, German, English, and American writers, and concerning this admirable section of the journal, we can only offer the criticism that some of the summaries are rather meagre. From the reports of societies, it is clear that M. Parrot's view as to rickets being solely a transformation of congenital syphilis, scarcely commands any more acceptance in Paris than in London.

New Inventions.

ABSORBENT COTTON-WOOL TISSUE.

MESSRS. ROBINSON & SON, of Wheat Bridge Mills, Chesterfield, have, at the suggestion of Mr. Sampson Gamgee, made a material for surgical dressings, to which the name of absorbent cotton-wool tissue has been given. It consists of very fine and pure absorbent cotton between two layers of fine absorbent gauze. It is sold in rolls of various widths, like lint, or cut into sheets of different sizes. This tissue is very light, perfectly smooth, powerfully absorbent, and of great elasticity. It can be applied to any surface with the greatest ease, and has very many uses in surgery. Thus, as a means of applying elastic compression, there is nothing more convenient than a bandage evenly applied to a limb or the trunk over a layer of this tissue; it makes an excellent absorbent dressing for wounds, and is a padding for splints which can at once be applied quite evenly. Mr. Gamgee has also shown that it can be utilised for the application of plaster-of-Paris splints. For example, to apply such a splint to the leg, all that is needed is to wrap the limb in a layer of the dry tissue, then take a similar piece of the tissue and soak it in plaster-of-Paris "cream," and fasten it to the limb by a light bandage; extra strength can be obtained either by another layer of the soaked tissue, or, much better, by laying thin narrow strips of deal veneer between the layers of the tissue. In this way a plaster splint is very readily applied, made to fit accurately to the part, and yet be of the minimum weight. The tissue is sold also by Messrs. Southall and Barclay, impregnated with any of the various antiseptic agents. We anticipate that this tissue will become a very favourite dressing material when its many great advantages come to be generally known.

AN INHALING TUBE.

THIS is a simple invention by Mr. Godfrey Harman, consisting of a wide-mouthed metal cone and tube passing from it at a right angle, intended to be adapted to any vessel that may be used for the purpose of inhalation of vapour. The cone is of sufficient size to cover the mouth and nostrils, and at the angle of junction with the tube a sponge can be placed to receive the medicament employed. The main merit of the apparatus is its adaptability to vessels of any shape or size. It is to be obtained of Messrs. Young and Postans, 35, Baker-street.