

by a blood clot, and, finally, he condemned the use of cocaine, which was recommended by Dr. Newman in painful cases. It was highly desirable, he thought, that the surgeon should have the sensations of the patient to guide him, — otherwise there was danger of making a false passage, — and the skilful catheterist, having made a careful diagnosis and selected the proper instrument, would not be at all likely to give pain.

Recent Literature.

The Invalid's Tea Tray. By SUSAN ANNA BROWN. Author of *Forty Puddings*. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. 1885. Pp. 67.

When the doctor is asked what *shall* we give our invalid to eat he is often at his wit's ends to supplement the efforts which have been already made by the nurse and family. This little book contains suggestions which will make many an anxious watcher bless the author for her thoughtfulness, and will relieve the doctor from the puzzling question. The book is dedicated to the family physician "whose genial visit in itself combines the best of cordials, tonics, anodynes."

A sort of preface consists of hints which are well worth repeating, if space permitted; though, doubtless, many an individual, who would never carry them into practice, would say: "Why, of course, everybody knows that."

The recipes themselves seem praiseworthy, but we prefer the formula for limewater of the U. S. Pharmacopœia to that of the "Tea Tray." The latter directs that it shall stand over night to settle, but does not refer to the effects of long exposure of limewater to air laden with the products of respiration.

The Refraction of the Eye. A Manual for Students. By Gustavus Hartridge, F.R.C.S. With eighty-seven illustrations. 12mo. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1884. Pp. 199.

We have read this little book with interest. It seems adapted to be of very considerable advantage to the student in the study of the principal facts regarding the refraction of the eye, and the means of determining and correcting its errors. Facility in accurate estimation of errors of refraction can, as the author justly observes, only be acquired by the practical working out of a large number of cases, and, we may add, by a more thorough study of the theory than the scope of the manual affords. As an introduction it will prove of much value. The first chapter (fifteen pages) is given to the statement of certain elementary principles of optics. Only great haste or carelessness can account for the statement made on page 5 under the head of "Reflection from convex mirrors": "The principal and conjugate foci are always on the same side of the mirror as the luminous point, while the visual focus is always on the other side of the mirror," in direct contradiction as it is to sentences immediately preceding. At the beginning of the next chapter we are surprised to learn that "the refracting system of the eye is so

beautifully arranged that but little, if any, spherical or chromatic aberration takes place, as is the case with ordinary optical instruments." But these examples are by no means to be taken as a sample of the whole. There are occasional inaccuracies or looseness of expression which we shall hope to see corrected in another edition, and we should have been glad to find a more accurate definition of presbyopia, a term which, in our experience, is not always exactly comprehended by the student. According to the definition given on page 22 and repeated on page 148, "When the near point has receded beyond twenty-two centimeters (which usually occurs in the emmetropic eye about the age of forty-five), the eye is said to be *presbyopic*," — a hypermetrope of high degree might be said to be presbyopic before he was out of his teens. The merits of the book, however, far outweigh its defects. The chapter on retinoscopy appears to us the best, and to have excited the warmest interest of the author. Mr. Hartridge, in common with several younger English ophthalmologists, has a preference for this method of measuring errors of refraction. In our opinion it is not, even on the showing of its advocates, equal to the direct examination with the ophthalmoscope, although it is probable that by many skill in its employment is more easily acquired. We commend the book to our readers.

A Guide to the Diseases of Children. By JAMES FREDERICK GOODHART, M.D., F.R.C.P., Assistant Physician to Guy's Hospital, and Lecturer on Pathology in its Medical School; Physician to the Erihna Hospital for Sick Children. Revised and edited by LOUIS STARR, M.D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Physician to the Children's Hospital, Philadelphia. With Formulae. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1885.

This work is written in a very agreeable style, carrying weight from its simplicity and clearness and the evidently large and matured experience of the author. It is especially adapted to the needs of the practising physician rather than for the medical student, as with rare discernment it takes up important points in the details of the disease and deals with them practically, leaving the general typical course of the case to the other numerous writers who have already covered the ground in this class of cases.

The type and paper are especially to be commended, and the editor, Dr. Starr, can be said to have offered a very attractive book to the medical profession.

— Dr. Sturge, a medical missionary to Siam, relates how a native doctor administered an emetic to a lovesick lady who had swallowed a quantity of opium with suicidal intent. The scientist of Siam took a live eel, clipped off a part of his tail to make him squirm in a lively manner, and then pushed him, tail first, down the romantic damsel's throat. When the eel returned to the stream of running water, near which the girl was made to recline, the opium quickly followed him.