

whole subject. We doubt whether anyone reading without previous knowledge his copious exposition would get any clear conception of what inflammation after all really means. Possibly the author holds that the processes thus named have not any real unity, and that, as he says, each kind has to be "considered upon its own special merits." But we must confess we have still a difficulty in understanding exactly what Dr. Hamilton considers to be the proximate cause of the differences between a healthy organ and the same organ inflamed; that is, in what way injuries produce the phenomena observed.

The chapter on healing of wounds is excellent and original, but we miss any explicit statement on the vexed question of the relations of repair and inflammation.

The third part is devoted to diseases of tissues and organs, or broadly to special pathology, though we find also here an account of new growths. This is generally the best illustrated chapter in a pathological textbook, and Dr. Hamilton's figures of tumours are very good. Without going further into criticisms of definition, we might ask whether Dr. Hamilton's definition of sarcoma as "a tumour composed of an embryonic connective tissue which shows no inclination to fulfil its ultimate developmental intention" is any improvement on the older one of Virchow as a tumour of the connective tissue series distinguished by the predominant development of cellular elements, which seems better to account for the very common occurrence of mixed sarcomas.

The origin of glandular cancer from simple glandular overgrowth, or, in other words, cancer passing through an adenomatous stage, is well illustrated, and is a point not yet sufficiently emphasised in many pathological textbooks. This consideration gives increased importance to the local origin of cancer, and the old terms, such as cancer of the breast, or cancer of the stomach, are now used with more of the significance which formerly belonged to them, and which was somewhat lost while cancer was regarded as a more universal process. Such an unmeaning epithet as carcinoma vulgare, though it still lingers in some textbooks, finds very rightly no place in Dr. Hamilton's pages. The chief omission noticeable in this part is that of any discussion of the causes of new growths, a subject not yet settled, it is true, but well worthy of consideration.

We must pass over a full account of the blood, physiological and pathological, including methods of examination and notices of several diseases known or supposed to be due to blood changes, to speak of the concluding part of the volume—that relating to the pathology of the heart and circulatory system.

This will naturally attract special attention, as a sample of what we have to expect in the second volume. Of this section we can speak in very high terms. Cardiac lesions are worked out very thoroughly, both from the clinical and the anatomical point of view, and altogether a more complete summary is given of cardiac pathology than we know of elsewhere, at least in the same compass. The most original part consists of statistics relating to the size of the orifices and thickness of the walls, drawn from the author's own systematic observations, though these results might, perhaps, be more conveniently arranged. We confess we cannot altogether agree with Dr. Hamilton that he has demolished the embolic theory of pulmonary infarctions. He seems to overlook the fact generally recognised by pathologists, that the branches of the pulmonary artery leading to or near the blocks are nearly always obstructed by clots, a fact for which his own explanation does not account. But fully to discuss the question would occupy more space than can be given here.

Looking on this volume as a whole, we regard it as a work calculated to raise the reputation of the British school of pathologists, and as bearing on every page testimony to the author's immense experience and indefatigable energy. Dr. Hamilton's watchword is "thorough." He has spared no pains to give the latest and most accurate information on every part of the subject, while the abundant literary references greatly add to its usefulness for teachers and investigators. The strong side of the book is detail; its weak side generalisation. It is not always easy (as was remarked in speaking of inflammation) to gain a clear notion of each topic as a whole; and a certain deficiency in the art of continuous exposition makes the book more suitable for reference than for reading through. But notwithstanding these objections (which could only be urged against a book deserving to be judged by a high standard) it will doubtless form, when completed, the most important work of reference on pathology produced by any English author.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Essentials of Physical Diagnosis of the Chest and Abdomen. By J. WALLACE ANDERSON, M.D., Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and Lecturer on Medicine to the Royal Infirmary Medical School. (Glasgow: James Maclehose. 1889).—The number of students' handbooks of physical diagnosis is now very considerable, but Dr. Wallace Anderson's book will compare very favourably with its rivals. The tabular form of presenting facts is avoided, and the book is, therefore, far more readable than when this dryas dust method is adopted. Moot points are briefly discussed, and the student is allowed to see the grounds upon which current opinion rests. The chapter on the respiratory sounds will be found especially useful on this account. The work is accurate and well arranged, and ought to be popular with students.

Bäder-Almanach, etc. 8vo, pp. 378. (Berlin and Frankfurt-a-M.: Rudolf Mosse. 1889. Vierte Ausgabe.)—This book gives an account of all the baths, health resorts, and health institutions of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Some good preliminary therapeutic directions are given at the commencement by well-known practitioners respecting the use of particular waters. The bulk of the book is occupied by the official accounts of the various stations arranged systematically. Although the character of such statements is improved of late years, still they are always the better for being criticised impartially. In this consists the superiority for ordinary readers of such works as Flechsig's *Dictionary of Baths*, of which a new edition has just appeared, as he generally pronounces some opinion on the places which he reviews. There is no doubt that the *Bäder-Almanach* contains much useful information, and it is appreciated in Germany, where it has reached a fourth annual issue. It also contains a very elaborate map of health resorts.

Proceedings of the New York Pathological Society, 1888. Pp. 170 with an Appendix.—This small volume of *Proceedings* contains accounts of many interesting specimens and clearly demonstrates that very useful and earnest work is done by the members of this Society. Among the cases described may be mentioned particularly two sets of specimens exhibited by Dr. H. M. Biggs, illustrating disease of the vermiform appendix. In two of the cases death was due to sloughing of the tip of the process; in two the appendix was perforated. There is also an ulcerated and perforated appendix, from a case of typhoid fever, in which the ileum was also perforated and diseased. In two specimens death was due to impaction of solid faecal matter in the vermiform appendix, and one case is described as tubercular ulceration. An abnormal appendix was exhibited, 9 inches long, and this instructive series is completed by a case in which the opening in the caecum became obstructed, and the appendix was dilated into a cyst, 4 inches long and 1 inch in diameter. With regard to perforation of the appendix Dr. Biggs had seen ten or twelve cases in two years. Brief records of two cases of actinomycosis are furnished. One of the cases occurred in the mediastinum of a boy; the second was instructive, the patient, a butcher, asked if his disease was like the "little pearls" seen in the lower jaw of cattle. The disease seemed to have commenced in a carious tooth. Among the remaining specimens may be mentioned suppurating ovarian cyst in a child of 4 years, renal calculus in a dog, dermoid cysts of the kidney, and two cases of accessory pancreas in the wall of the duodenum; one from a newborn child, the other from a man aged 35, in whom it simulated a tumour. It is a pity that the descriptions of some of the above specimens are not illustrated by sketches. Appended to the volume is the Middleton Goldsmith Lecture, by Dr. J. M. Da Costa, "On the Relation of Diseases of the Kidneys, especially the Bright's Diseases, to Diseases of the Heart;" and a biographical sketch of the late Middleton Goldsmith, M.D., LL.D., by Dr. John C. Peters.

PRESENTATIONS.—Dr. Peter Yates, on resigning the post of house-surgeon to the Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary, has been the recipient of several handsome presents from the officers, the nursing staff, and patients.—Mr. John Acton Southern, L.R.C.P., of the Derbyshire General Infirmary, was presented by the staff and nurses, on July 19th, with a gold watch as a mark of their esteem and regret at his resignation as house-surgeon, after being in the Infirmary three years and a half.