that the poisonous matter exercised a specific action on various nerve centres in the skin, resembling the specific action of poisons on the various nerve centres. Amongst the nerve diseases a great advance had been made by the formation of the group of hydroa, the dermatitis herpetiformis of Duhring and "scar-erythemata" of Unna, comprising "lupus erythematosus" and the chronic atrophic form of non-parasitic sycosis. The group of parasitic diseases was continually growing in number, and would probably be found finally to constitute the great bulk of all the dermatoses. Their development was often greatly influenced by the general health and external surroundings of the patient, and this had led, as formerly in the case of tuberculosis, to the presumption that many of them were constitutional. One of the newest additions to the class was the group caused by a low form of animal organism, the psorosperm (Darier), which had been found in a peculiar disease "psorospermose folliculaire végétante," characterised by a plugging of the pilosebaceous orifices and the development of large tumours, chiefly about the groins. Similar bodies were found in Paget's disease of the nipple, where they appeared to be the direct cause of the epitheliomatous growth (Wickham). In the degenerative affection known as pityriasis rubra several distinct varieties had been separated out, of different origin, course, and prognosis. Apart from the introduction of various new drugs and modes of application, the recent tendency of dermatological therapeutics had been largely in the direction of antiparasitics.

Cases, etc.—Dr. JUDSON S. BURY showed a woman, aged 24, who presented a combination of Scleroderma and Raynaud's Disease. She first noticed about two years ago that her hands went white and dead, and soon afterwards the tips of some of the fingers "gathered and broke." When seen in March the hands were cold and the ends of the fingers blue, and at the tips of some of them were a few minute pits. Both hands and fingers were thicker and harder than natural, and owing to the hide-bound condition the fingers could not be fully extended. The skin of the backs of the forearms and of the cheeks was also thickened. The smooth hardened condition of the cheeks robbed the face of expression. Her condition was still much the same. There had never been any evidence of hæmoglobinuria. Dr. Bury also exhibited water-colour drawings (1) from a case of Xanthoma Diabeticorum, (2) from a case of Extensive "Port-wine Mark."—Other cases were shown by Dr. THOMAS HARRIS and Dr. COLLINS.

SHEFFIELD MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 1889.

C. N. GWYNNE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Cases.—Mr. ATKIN showed a case of Complete Mydriasis, resulting from a blow on the eyeball. After nearly four months' treatment no contraction had been effected. It was assumed that the same irritation which had paralysed the fibres of the third nerve had stimulated those of the sympathetic. Recent experiments were quoted to show that it was probable that all branches proceeding from the Gasserian ganglion contained motor fibres, and that it was probable that the dilator of the pupil was supplied also by the fifth nerve. As myotics, cauterisation, and electricity had been tried, irritation of branches of the fifth nerve and ocular gymnastics were suggested as most likely to succeed; but reservation was made that if Dr. Woakes's theory of the reflex relationship of the afferent and efferent elements of the sympathetic system were correct, then stimulating the branches of the fifth nerve might act reflexly on the dilator, as well as on the contractor of the pupil, and so nullify any result.—Dr. PORTER showed a sawgrinder, aged 44, suffering from what was believed to be Thoracic Aneurysm, though there was an absence of many of the symptoms to which such a condition might have been expected to give rise in the six years the patient had bsen under observation. His chief complaint had been of shortness of breath, cough, and occasional attacks of hæmoptysis. In 1885 he lost his voice completely for a time, and the left vocal cord was found to be paralysed. His voice had continued husky ever since, and the vocal cord more or less motionless. A short systolic murmur was audible to the left of the sternum in the third interspace, and to the left of the spine behind in the interscapular region, and the heart's apex was displaced downwards and outwards. There were no signs of a tumour or other pressure symptoms. There was a history of syphilis many years previously. The attacks of hæmoptysis continued to recur from time to time, but always yielded to five-grain doses of succinate of potash.—Dr. PORTER also showed a case of Lupus Erythematosus (

Ulcerative Endocarditis.—Dr. DYSON related the case of a minister, aged 35, who was overworked and overworried. His illness began like ague, and was treated as such at first. There was then nothing to be observed but anæmia, bleeding piles, cerebral asthenia. He had no heart murmurs whatever. Subsequently pyrexia became more continuous, severe endocarditis supervened with aortic, systolic, and diastolic murmurs; great perspirations, enlargement of the spleen, congestion (? embolism) of the lung with hæmoptysis, embolism of right middle cerebral artery, and also thrombosis of axillary artery on the left side, left hemiplegia, and absence of left radial pulse. A profound typhoidal state came on before death, which occurred ten weeks and five days after acute symptoms began.

Etiology of Tuberculosis.—Dr. BURGESS read a paper on this subject, in which he contrasted the meagre results obtained by clinical observation and medical statistics with what had been done during the scientific epoch of Villemin, Cohnheim, and Koch. The difficulty of connecting a given case with a previous one was not surprising when the very variable and indefinite incubation period, the numerous possible sources of infection, the impossibility of aërial dissemination from fresh sputum, and the fact that dried sputum retained its virulence for months were borne in mind. The case of a girl, aged 17, the eldest child of a poor family, and the only member of it who contracted phthisis from the father, was quoted to emphasise the importance of individual susceptibility as an etiological factor. Remarks were made on predisposition, sources of infection, modes of invasion, etc., and several cases were quoted to illustrate some of the points dwelt upon. Some obvious prophylactic precautions were mentioned. It was maintained that many of the worst cases might easily be isolated if they were not eligible as out-patients at hospitals, nor attended gratuitously at home. From the history of leprosy, a disease closely allied to tuberculosis, he inferred that it would take many decades to estimate fairly, and centuries to realise fully, the effects of preventive measures.—Mr. A. JACKSON, Dr. DYSON, Dr. GWYNNE, Dr. KEELING, Dr. MARTIN, and Mr. ROBINSON joined in the discussion which followed.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY, intended especially for the Use of those recently appointed on a Hospital Staff, and for those preparing for the Higher Examinations. By W. H. A. JACOBSON, M.A., M.B., M.Ch.Oxon., F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon Guy's Hospital, Teacher of Operative and Joint Teacher of Practical Surgery in the Medical School, Surgeon to the Royal Hospital for Children and Women. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1889.

IN preparing this book the author has left the usual track and has dealt with operative surgery on a plan which is novel from several points of view. Not only are all the ordinary operations fully dealt with, usually under the headings "indications," "different methods," "causes of failure," but excellent accounts are given of others outside the common run; trephining for mastoid and cerebral abscess and traumatic epilepsy, the operations on the kidney, excision of the rectum, wiring the patella. In addition to these there are other sections less strictly "operative," which are markedly the practical experience of one who has had excellent surgical opportunities at one of our largest London hospitals. Such sections are those on "Palmar Hæmorrhage," "Operative Treatment of Lupus," "Surgical Interference in Aneurysms of the Innominate and Aorta," "Treatment of Compound Fracture," and the aphorisms at the commencement of the pages on excisions of bones and joints of the tarsus (p. 1071). The arrangement of Mr. JACOBSON's book is different from that of others, the operations being placed, not under the usual headings of "Ligatures," "Amputations," "Excisions," etc, but under regions—namely, Part I, Operations on the Upper Extremity; Part II, Operations on Head and Neck, etc. At first sight this plan may appear inconvenient to a student who wishes to perform the ligatures on the dead subject consecutively, but it has the advantage of following the anatomy of the parts concerned, while it is difficult to see how any other arrangement could have included equally well a number of operations which, not given in other books of the kind, meet us here.

Part I, in addition to all the operations on the upper extremity usually described, contains accounts of many for which the

operating surgeon would have to hunt in journals, monographs, etc.; for example, "Union of Divided Tendons," "Contraction of Palmar Fascia." Others have probably been included for the benefit of army surgeons; for example, excision of the shaft of the humerus and of the radius and ulna in continuity. It may be suggested that in a future edition Mr. Jacobson should shorten his account of transfusion, considering how very rarely this step is called for. At present this includes several methods, direct and indirect; while arterial transfusion, the use of milk, and saline solutions are all alluded to. It is only fair to add that the account of reinfusion as practised by the Edinburgh surgeons promises to be of much interest to hospital surgeons called upon to amputate in severe railway smashes. A little later, nine pages are taken up by "Removal of the Scapula," which might have been given in half the space.

Part II, Operations on the Head and Neck is very full. We would recommend to those of the younger generation who are exceedingly zealous for operations a careful perusal of Mr. Jacobson's remarks on "Removal of the Thyroid," partial and complete, the "Removal of Deep-seated Growths in the Neck," and "Excisions of the Larynx." There is a good account of "Cerebral Localisation in reference to operations;" and two sterling chapters on "Removal of the Tongue" and "Tracheotomy." In the former Mr. Jacobson, here as elsewhere, is strongly in favour of the scissors operation of Mr. Whitehead. Not only are the different methods and the writer's favourite one clearly described, but such points as the "uncancerous stage," the "probability of a permanent cure," and, this failing, "of bettering the patient's condition," are lucidly discussed. The account of tracheotomy for membranous laryngitis is most interesting throughout its minuteness; it is arranged under the headings of "Age," "Right Time of Operating" and "Wise Selection of Cases," "Operation," "After-treatment," "Complications of the After-treatment," including an account of those conditions which impede the removal of the tube. Noteworthy sections also are those on "Removal of the Breast," "Lateral Lithotomy," and "Excision of the Knee-joint." Here, as indeed throughout the book, are no *ossa, arida ossa* of mere accounts of operations. The descriptions abound from end to end with points of practical and clinical detail, the outcome of carefully-used surgical experience.

In Part IV (Operations on the Abdomen), the chapter on "Operative Interference in Gunshot and other Injuries of the Abdomen" is, as might be expected, largely recruited from the work of American surgeons. One feature of Mr. Jacobson's book is his acquaintance with, and frequent references to, American surgery. In the account of "Excision of the Pylorus," as in the case of some other operations which have not made for themselves a firm foundation in English surgery, the writer expresses himself cautiously, but adversely, assigning reasons which may be recommended to the notice of younger surgeons.

Part V (Operations on the Lower Extremity) opens with a capital account of "Amputation at the Hip Joint," including a description of Furneaux Jordan's amputation, a nowadays frequently performed amputation. In this section, in addition to the ordinarily performed operations, others useful to the operating surgeon are included, namely, "Ununited Fracture of the Femur," "Removal of Loose Cartilages from the Knee-joint," "Wiring the Patella;" For Necrosis, Mikulicz's tarsectomy, and numerous others. The book closes with chapters on operations on nerves, on the vertebral column, and an appendix on Tapping the Pericardium, which should have been included in Part III which deals with the thorax.

Of the 199 illustrations, a great number are original, drawn, as the preface tells us, by Dr. Hogarth, of Brixton. Many of these are excellent, namely, those showing excision of the knee—Furneaux Jordan's and Syme's and Pirogoff's amputation. Some are decidedly poor, for example, Fig. 33, the second stage of amputation of the shoulder by lateral flaps. Those showing ligature of the arteries seem meagre and disappointing, but this is perhaps explained by a remark of the writer, that in "tying an artery a test of the masterly application of the ligature is the fewness of the structures seen." True as this is of the surgeon, we think that this rule has been carried too far in a book intended for students working on the dead subject, as well as for hospital surgeons.

We have read this volume with very great pleasure. Mr. Jacobson shows an earnest desire to make his book as complete and helpful as possible, and a fixed intention throughout to do justice to the writings of others. This last, a high merit at the present day.

The English is scholarly, the writing vigorous. The book is the more valuable for its frequent and most interesting allusions to cases and the prominence throughout given to the clinical side. Its wide and comprehensive scope, the amplitude of its details, the laborious pains which have been taken to bring it up to date and to render it complete, make this book second in usefulness to none of the current textbooks on operative surgery.

A MANUAL OF PATHOLOGY. By JOSEPH COATS, M.D. Second Edition. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1889.

THE English medical student of to-day cannot complain of any dearth of textbooks of pathology, even without counting translations, or manuals limited to the surgical side of the subject. He has now a choice of guides to whom he may safely commit himself, though each will lead him into a somewhat different region of the same wide country. He may, for instance, study comparative pathology with Sutton, morbid anatomy with Wilks and Moxon, morbid histology with Green, or he may follow out other developments of the science with Hamilton or Payne. Among all these teachers, COATS occupies somewhat of an intermediate position. He is rather an eclectic, partaking of all the schools. In his first edition, he proposed "to take into account the etiology, morbid anatomy, and general pathology of each morbid condition," and all these aspects of the subject were no doubt regarded. At the same time the general scope of the work did not differ greatly from that of a treatise on pathological anatomy—such as, for instance, Ziegler's. The physiological side was at all events little regarded. In the present edition, something has been done in the physiological direction by the introduction of a chapter on fever, such as is now customary in pathological works, and there is a preliminary chapter on the nature and causes of disease. But the scope of the book remains mainly morphological. We almost wonder that Dr. Coats, after having once made up his mind to go beyond the limits of pure morbid anatomy, did not treat some subjects more after the manner of Cohnheim from the physiological side. For instance, the question of blood pressure, which is surely a fundamental one in cardio-vascular pathology, might have received some attention. However, it is only fair to observe the old rule, "in every work regard the writer's end," and to judge of a book like this by what it professes to include.

Comparing the second with the first edition, we find in every chapter and in almost every page new facts added, paragraphs rewritten, the style condensed and revised. Indeed we might say, without depreciation of the first edition, that its relation to the present one is something like that of a first sketch to a finished picture.

In opening a work on pathology, it is natural to turn to the chapter on inflammation. Here we note first that Dr. Coats, like some other recent writers, shirks, or at least avoids, the difficulty of giving a definition of the word. He only refers, without approval, to the traditional definition derived from Celsus, but gives no other in its place. We do not know exactly what the professor's answer would be if pinned by some irrepressible student with the question, "What is inflammation?" but to such a question we cannot help thinking some sort of definite reply, whether in one word or a hundred, ought to be given. It is not fairly answered by a mere enumeration of the phenomena. The treatment of the subject is improved in some particulars, but not essentially altered from the first edition. The chapters on hyperæmia and allied subjects appear to us to show a better appreciation of modern researches. The section on bacteria, as might be expected, is very greatly enlarged, but not at all too much so. The illustrations of this part are hardly equal to those of some other chapters. In speaking of yeasts, the pathological importance of which is, of course, very small, reference might have been made to what is perhaps the commonest epiphyte of the human body—the saccharomyces of the scalp.

The pathology of the heart and blood-vessels is evidently a favourite topic with Dr. Coats, and his chapters on this subject are on the whole very complete. We find a good account of ulcerative (or perhaps better, infective) endocarditis, as a bacterial disease. The frequent occurrence of this affection in hearts previously damaged by chronic disease, a well-established clinical fact which fits in very well with the bacterial theory, is not noticed. The section on valvular disease would have gained in interest by some reference to the clinical features of the subject, and to the dynamics of cardiac pathology.

The chapters on diseases of the nervous system are improved in

arrangement, and generally revised without important additions. That on pulmonary phthisis is, on the other hand, much enlarged and improved, and has several new illustrations. There are new chapters on the diseases of the thymus and thyroid, and on those of the eye and ear.

A valuable feature of the new edition is the introduction of references to original sources of information in each subject, which greatly adds to the usefulness of the book for purposes of consultation.

The typography has been improved by the use of two kinds of type and of more systematic headings to the paragraphs. The new figures are numerous, many of them being original and very good. In conclusion, we must congratulate Dr. Coats on having very greatly improved both the substance and the appearance of his valuable textbook.

ALGERIAN HINTS FOR TOURISTS. By C. E. FLOWER. 12mo., pp. 60 London: E. Stanford. 1889.

THESE short hints, meant to be supplemental to Murray and other guide-books, though not specially addressed to invalid visitors of Algiers, will be found useful by them. The author complains of the poor food and filthy arrangements of most hotels throughout the country. He says that the new hotels in Biskra and Oran are the only ones that come up to English requirements, and he also with justice, speaks well of the hotel at Hammam R'Irrha. As Mr. FLOWER has been a great traveller, and also an invalid, we give his opinion of the comparative merits of Algiers and of the Riviera, in which, in the main, we agree with him:

"If a really warm winter is essential, then nothing nearer than Egypt or Madeira can be of use, and anything short of that may as well be obtained without the disadvantage of crossing the Mediterranean in winter or spring. Forty or even fifty hours from Algiers to Marseilles is not uncommon. The thought of this alone is a great drawback to an invalid who cannot feel, as at Cannes or Mentone, that in case of emergency he may return home or be joined by friends in a definite number of hours. I certainly do not think Algiers a good place for invalids; the climate is very slightly better than that on the French and Italian Riviera, while there is much discomfort of living."

Mr. Flower was told that the windy and rainy weather which he experienced in the early months of the year was exceptional, but the weather in Algiers is seldom settled at that time.

A TREATISE ON THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. By W. S. PLAYFAIR, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P.; Physician-Accoucheur to H. I. and R. H. the Duchess of Edinburgh; Professor of Obstetric Medicine in King's College, etc. In Two Volumes. Seventh Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1889.

THE appearance of this—the seventh—edition of PLAYFAIR'S *Midwifery* is a sufficient proof of the favour with which the work continues to be regarded by students and the profession. The features that have rendered previous editions attractive are retained in this one. It is pleasantly and clearly written, and therefore easily read. The author is both a practitioner and teacher of large experience, and what he writes has, therefore, an authority that it could not otherwise possess. Remembering that midwifery is essentially a practical subject, Dr. Playfair, no doubt intentionally, only gives us as much anatomy and pathology as is essential for an intelligent comprehension of the rest.

When another edition is in preparation, we think the time will have come, if it has not come already, when it will no longer be necessary to describe traction on the cord as the usual method of removing the placenta. That it has ceased to be so is, no doubt, largely due to Dr. Playfair's own teaching.

In cases of abortion, inevitable or incomplete, where it is necessary to dilate the cervix, and similarly in cases of vesicular mole, we think dilatation by means of Hegar's dilators superior in every way to dilatation by sponge or laminaria tents as recommended in the text.

On pages 348 and 349, vol. ii, are plans showing how defective sanitary arrangements in houses may cause puerperal fever. One diagram represents a bedroom in which an innocent-looking wardrobe turned out to be a water-closet in disguise. In regard to this it would seem that wardrobes are not infrequently used for this purpose on the Continent. The French word for "wardrobe," "garde-robe," has a second meaning—namely, "privy"—against it in the dictionary. In the case referred to the concealed water-closet was in direct communication with the main drain, without any ventilation, so that sewer gas was carefully laid on. Upon this state of things being discovered, the patient was removed to another room, when her symptoms soon abated.

In this edition the obstetric nomenclature decided on by a committee appointed at the International Medical Congress, held at Washington in 1887, has been introduced. Speaking of the treatment of early extra-uterine gestation by the faradic current, Dr. Playfair says; "Many successful cases have followed the use of the faradic current—one pole being passed through the rectum or vagina to the site of the ovum, the other being placed on a point in the abdominal wall, two or three inches above Poupart's ligament." We regard the evidence of such successes as insufficient, and very probably Dr. Playfair only means that many cases have been reported as successful under this treatment. Where the diagnosis is so exceedingly difficult, as it is admitted to be in cases of early extra-uterine gestation, in any given case the probability would rather be that the diagnosis had been mistaken, than that the condition had been cured by the use of electricity.

BEDSIDE URINE TESTING: A CLINICAL GUIDE TO THE OBSERVATION OF URINE IN THE COURSE OF WORK. By Dr. GEORGE OLIVER. London: Lewis. 1889.

Dr. OLIVER'S aim is to supply in a small compass the leading data in regard to urinary observation by pointing out what ought to be looked for, as well as the readiest methods to be adopted. The practical character of the book is well maintained throughout, and that it has supplied a want is shown by this being the fourth edition. Of course, the author directs his attention chiefly to the detection of abnormal constituents by the use of test papers. These are undoubtedly of great value to the general practitioner, particularly for bedside work, as, in addition to their utility, they possess much reliability if they have been carefully prepared and have not undergone alteration; although for our own part we confess to a preference for the same tests differently applied; however, Dr. Oliver's little book is a most valuable one, and well deserving of a place in the general practitioner's and even the physician's library.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Instructions to Inventors as to obtaining Letters Patent and registering Trade Marks and Designs. By WILLIAM JORDAN, Patent Agent.—This pamphlet is an advertisement issued for the purpose of inducing inventors to patronise Mr. Jordan; but it contains information which is likely to be generally useful. Hints are given as to the proper method of drawing up the specification and the procedure to be followed in order to obtain letters patent. A table of the cost to be incurred in various countries is also to be found. The pamphlet also contains a description of what is required in order to obtain valid registration of a trademark. As far as it goes the information given is correct, but it is in an exceedingly abbreviated form, and is only calculated to indicate the course which an inventor must pursue in order to obtain proper protection for his skill, without professing to furnish him with a complete guide.

Inorganic Chemistry. By IRA REMSEN. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1889.).—This is a most carefully written, and, in many respects, original volume. After detailing in some ten chapters the chemistry of the constituents of water and of hydrochloric acid and the oxides of chlorine, with which are incorporated definitions of the atomic theory, the nature of atoms and molecules, allotropism, acids, bases and salts, the author gives a chapter on the Natural Classification of Elements and the Periodic Law. From this point onwards he professes to follow the classification introduced by Newlands and Mendeejeff; but, from motives of convenience, certain elements of Family VII lead off the race, whilst Family I comes in a bad fifth in Chapter XXV. This is rather embarrassing. Another fault of arrangement, as it seems to us, is deferring to an appendix all experiments, such as are used in the lecture room for illustrating the properties of the most important elements and their compounds, which, with their attendant woodcuts, form such a characteristic feature of most large works on chemistry. When such experiments are interspersed throughout the work in their appropriate places, the task of reading is lightened to the student, and he gets a better grasp