

LITERARY NOTES.

ON Wednesday, June 20th, Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge will offer for sale a valuable collection of early medical books, the property of the late Sir William Banks. That distinguished surgeon was well known as a student of the history of his profession and its early literature, a circumstance which gives his collection a special value that does not always belong to the treasures of the mere bibliophile, who is often more interested in curious misprints and tall copies than in the contents of his volumes. In the list of Sir William Banks's books we notice a copy of the *De Secretis* of the "reverend Maister Alexis of Piemont," printed at Bale in 1559; C. de Iryngio's *Rare and Wonderful Art of Curing by Sympathy* (1656); E. Rhodion's *Departu hominis*, printed at Venice in 1536; Vigo's *Whole Worke of Chirurgery, whereunto are annexed certain works completed by Thomas Gale*, black letter, 1586; *Galen's Opera Omnia*, Venetiis 1562; *Hippocratis Opera Omnia Græce*, printed at Venice by Aldus in 1526; and many other valuable works.

Some of Dr. John Brown's correspondence with Thackeray, Ruskin, and other eminent persons was given to the world by Dr. Peddie in his sketch of the life of the author of *Rab and his Friends*. Many readers will doubtless learn with pleasure that many more of Dr. Brown's own letters as also of those addressed to him will before long be published by Messrs. A. and C. Black.

A remarkable sign of the times is the appearance of a "medico-critical study" of hypnotism and spiritualism by Dr. Lapponi, the Pope's physician. He is said to have given much attention to the problems of spiritism, and his book contains a large body of facts—instances of levitation, materialization of spirits, etc.—which he says have been seriously related by writers worthy of credit. To us the most interesting feature about Dr. Lapponi's book is the fact that it should have been published, for, having regard to the official position of the author, it is to be presumed that it has the *imprimatur* of the ecclesiastical authorities. Till now the Roman Catholic Church has, we believe, set its face against hypnotism and spiritism on the ground that the phenomena are either impostures or the work of evil spirits abusing men, as Hamlet says, to damn them.

Messrs. William Wood and Co. of New York announce the forthcoming issue of a work entitled *American Practice of Surgery*, by representative surgeons of the United States and Canada. The editors are Drs. Joseph Decatur Bryant and Albert Henry Buck. The work will be in eight royal 8vo volumes, and will be illustrated by chromolithographic and other plates and by line and half-tone engravings. The first volume will be published in June and the succeeding volumes at intervals of about three months. The prospectus states that the "material contained in *American Practice of Surgery* will be entirely original, written for this work alone, and naturally embracing much that has never before been published." It is added that "no foreign writers have been invited to take part in the work, and it will, for this reason, be distinctly American in character." Among the contributors are Professors E. W. Andrews, Nicholas Senn, and Dr. J. B. Murphy, of Chicago; Professor Roswell Park, of Buffalo; Professors Rodman, and De Forest Willard, of Philadelphia; Professor F. J. Shepherd, Drs. G. E. Armstrong, J. A. Hutchison, A. J. Nicholls, E. Archibald, J. E. Elder, W. Chipman, A. E. Garroll, and J. Bell, of Montreal; and Professors G. A. Peters and A. Primrose, of Toronto.

In the *World's Anatomists*, a little book of 79 pages (P. Blakiston's Son and Co.), a revised edition of which appeared not long ago, Dr. G. W. H. Kemper, of Muncie, Indiana, gives short biographies of 229 anatomists who have written their names on various parts of the human body. The little book is likely to be useful to students of anatomy to whom Gimbernat and Steno, and so many others, are not human personalities, but ligaments, ducts, and nerves. The facts are in the main accurate, but the revision would seem to have been somewhat carelessly done. Without looking for errors, we find, in turning over the pages, Sir Charles Bell described as an English surgeon, while next him comes his elder brother, John Bell, who is presented to us as a Scotch anatomist. The name of Emile Littré is (p. 57) given as "Littré," while the Christian name of Schwann—"Theodore," is

changed into "Thomas" (p. 60). Claude Bernard is said to have been "originally a tragic poet"; surely this is unduly magnifying a youthful indiscretion, and that, as the poor girl pleaded, such a very little one. The spelling is somewhat unconventional. Such forms as "aberans" (p. 25), and "pubis" (p. 53), are not, we believe, sanctioned even by American reformers of orthography; the discoverer of the Eustachian tube was not "Eustacchi"; the old university on the Pregel, where Immanuel Kant taught so long, would not know itself in the disguise of "Konigsburg." A French anatomist appears variously as "Doyere" and "Doyer." These are but slight blemishes, and we mention them only in the hope that Dr. Kemper will remove them in the next edition of his interesting booklet.

The report of the Joint Committee of Physiological and Chemical Societies on Proteid Nomenclature, of which Professor Halliburton was Chairman, has issued certain recommendations the object of which is, as far as possible, to retain existing terms, and to reconcile the way in which they are employed in this country, America, and on the Continent. The Committee does not regard the time as yet ripe for coining strictly chemical names; it recommends the abolition of the words "proteid" and "albuminoid." The word "protein" is recommended as the general name of the whole group. It is at present so used both in America and Germany (*Protein-stoffe*). It admits of the use of the derived words "protease," "protease," "proteolysis," etc. The subclasses, beginning with the simplest, would be as follows: (1) Protamines; (2) histones; (3) albugins, (a) albumins, (b) globulins and their derivatives, like fibrin and myosin; (4) proteides (i pronounced as in wine); (a) (gluco-proteides), (b) nucleo-proteides, (c) chromo-proteides; (5) phospho-proteins (for example, vitellin, caseinogen and its derivative casein); (6) sclero-proteins. For Class 3, a general term has been considered necessary, especially from the teachers' standpoint, and the Committee has adopted an old word used in adjective form by Sir Thomas Browne in his *Vulgar Errors*; he says: "... for eggs, I observe, will freeze in the albuginous part thereof." In Class 4, the new word "proteide" closely approximates the corresponding German term. Class 5 is separated from Class 4, as the prefix "nucleo," frequently used in relation to it, is misleading. The new word "sclero-protein" replaces the word "albuminoid" as employed in this country. The prefix indicates the skeletal and insoluble nature of its members. The products of proteolysis are those which require special attention. The Committee recommend that these be classified as follows: (1) Met-albugins; (2) proteoses; (3) polypeptides. Metalbumin replaces albuminate. The termination *ate* implies a salt, and is therefore objectionable. These first degradation products are obtainable from both albumins and globulins, and, after much consideration, the Committee recommends the prefixing of "met" to the word "albugin," as an indication of comparatively slight chemical alteration. The term "protease" includes albumose, globulose, gelatose, etc. The subdivision of these into proto-, hetero-, deuterio-proteoses, etc., and the various modifications of Kuhne's original classification have been considered by the Committee, which has determined to make no recommendation, as the whole matter is at present too unsettled for any final nomenclature to be proposed. The term "polypeptide" includes the peptones (polypeptides which give the biuret reaction and cannot be salted out from solution), the kyrines, and the synthetical products of E. Fischer. The Committee found some difficulty in accurately placing fibrin in the classification, but ultimately placed it among the derivatives of globulins. Its mother substance, fibrinogen, comes among the globulins. There was no difficulty about caseinogen and casein, and the Committee strongly urges the continued use of these words in the sense now employed in the majority of English textbooks. In the case of the muscle proteids the members of the Committee were equally unanimous that the original terms of Halliburton should be rigidly adhered to. The new words introduced by v. Furth have only produced confusion, especially among students. The terms to be adopted should therefore be "paramyosinogen" and "myosinogen" for the proteids of the muscle-plasma, "soluble myosin" for v. Furth's soluble myogen-fibrin, and "myosin" for the final product.