Part Second.

REVIEWS.

Paralyses: Cerebral, Bulbar, and Spinal. A Manual of Diagnosis for Students and Practitioners. By H. CHARLTON BASTIAN, M.A., M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Examiner in Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Clinical Medicine and of Pathological Anatomy in University College, London. London: H. K. Lewis: 1886.

THIS admirable work is a valuable addition to the literature of neurology. It is intended, as the author states in the preface, to facilitate diagnosis by the explanation and grouping of essential points, and this aim has evidently been kept closely in view throughout. The volume presents the most perfect compendium on the subject with which we are acquainted.

One of the special features which characterize the work is the fact that the author, when possible, seeks to get at fundamental principles. As an example of this, we may refer to the section which is devoted to Disorders of Intellectual Expression by Speech and Writing. In that interesting part of the work there is a highly philosophic account of the nature and order of the cerebral processes involved in speaking, reading, writing, and thinking, which serves as a thoroughly scientific basis for the discussion of disorders of language in their varied forms. In the masterly analysis of perception in relation to ordinary processes of thought he stoutly maintains his view that words are mainly revived in ordinary thought as auditory feelings, and entirely rejects the motor-process theory of Wundt, Bain, and Hughlings Jackson, believing that impressions affecting the centre for the sense of movement are the last to be revived in the cerebral cortex. While he thus, however, declines to admit the importance of revived articulatory feelings in silent thought, he claims for them (as sensory, not as motor processes) an all-important function in the expression of thought by articulate speech. There can be little doubt that the author's position is strong, if not impregnable. The whole section devoted to disorders of spoken and written language is conceived and worked out in such a manner as to throw much light on an obscure and difficult subject.

Another point which gives individuality to the volume is the prominence which is given to paralyses of the different cranial nerves. The author carefully analyses the symptoms caused by affections of these nerves, and points out the diagnostic indications to be obtained from a study of them. This division of the subject is of the highest value.

There is one form of paralysis with regard to which we should

like to mention the author's views—that special variety of toxic paralysis called alcoholic paralysis. He points out that among the recent descriptions of this affection there are great differences, and that there are quite as wide divergences in opinion regarding the pathology of the disease—one observer regarding it as a spinal, and another as a peripheral lesion. He is of opinion that there is no one condition which answers to the name, and he regrets the use of the term as leading to what seems to be a diagnosis when no real diagnosis has been made, fearing that the term may come to be as meaningless and erroneous as its compeer “hysterical paralysis” is often found to be.

Throughout the whole work the hand of a master can be seen. No superfluous padding has been allowed a place, and the volume is therefore a storehouse of facts, skilfully marshalled and carefully analyzed. We feel that it would be impossible to speak too highly of it, and we have no doubt it will be received as cordially as its merits deserve.

On Fevers: their History, Etiology, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment. By ALEXANDER COLLIE, M.D. (Aberd.), M.R.C.P., Medical Superintendent of the Eastern Hospital, etc. With Coloured Plates. London: H. K. Lewis: 1887.

THIS volume is one of a series “written by well-known hospital physicians and surgeons recognised as authorities on the subjects of which they treat.” “The works are intended to be of a thoroughly practical character, calculated to meet the requirements of the general practitioner and the student of medicine, and to present the most recent information in a compact and readable form.” Dr Collie goes over the fevers generally met with in this country. The observations made upon the greater number of them are, as Dr Collie informs us in the preface, founded upon over 21,000 cases, which he has personally treated from commencement to termination. After careful perusal of the work, we must confess to being on the whole disappointed with the result, but that may be owing to the requirements of the publishers. The work is evidently that of a purely hospital physician, nevertheless we feel sure that if Dr Collie had relied even more upon his own observations than he has done, and entered more into detail in treating of the various fevers, he would have produced a work more useful to the profession at large, and more serviceable to those who are specially interested in the study of the fever process. As it is, it is not unlike what may be found in any of the systematic treatises on Practice of Physic.

His definitions are certainly fragmentary. Thus, under the “nature and pathology of fever” he defines it as “a more or less continued elevation of temperature.” Scarlet Fever he defines as