various arguments, that the first twenty years of that great man's life could not have been characterized by the neglected education and the aimless occupations which successive biographers have submissively accepted as real. In short, Mr Holden proves, in our opinion, quite indisputably, that the London career of John Hunter was preceded by a youth of preparatory training in perfect accordance with the accepted adage, that "the boy is always father to the man." It now appears that the parent who superintended with anxious care the education of his elder son William Hunter, enabling him to become the cultivated man he was, survived till John was in his fifteenth year; and retaining, as he did, his faculties to the last, doubtless took care that the boyish education of his younger son was not neglected. Facts ascertained by Mr Holden—namely, that John had been an entered alumnus of the University of Glasgow, and was at any rate in the class of natural philosophy—confirm this belief, and contradict the common impression that he came to the metropolis a rough, undisciplined youth. That his mind had very little bias towards the classical tastes and high culture of Dr William Hunter must be apparent to all readers of his published writings; but that an ignorant, self-indulgent, and aimless lad of twenty-one should all at once develop into the man of fixed, indomitable purpose and persevering zeal which John Hunter became and continued to be to his dying day, would be anomalous and altogether at variance with universal experience.

The oration is fresh and full of thought; it is enriched by many valuable notes, and will amply repay a careful perusal.

Lectures on Syphilis. By JAMES R. LANE, F.R.C.S. Second Edition.
London: J. & A. Churchill: 1881.

ON a former occasion we noticed the first edition of these admirable lectures, and we have great pleasure in again recommending them to those of the profession who wish to study the more abstruse points in connexion with this subject.

Spermatorrhœa: its Causes, Symptoms, Results, and Treatment.
By ROBERTS BARTHOLOW, A.M., M.D. New York: William Wood & Co.: 1879.

THE chief objection we have to this work is its title. Spermatorrhœa resulting from masturbation or excessive venery is a very rare disease. It is more the dread of it that forms the chief ailment in cases of sexual hypochondriasis, and this fear has been fostered by quack literature bearing similar titles to the work under review. In other respects the book is a sensible and scientific one.