

up in alphabetical order. Few of any importance are omitted, and they are all discussed shortly but thoroughly.

The work abounds in excellent hints on the legal aspects of poisoning cases: how to do in cases of accident, suicide, or murder. The following is part of the author's advice regarding preparation for appearance in the witness box:—"Before giving evidence think over very carefully what you are going to say. Better to rehearse it a dozen times in the privacy of your own chamber than to break down in public. Arrange your facts clearly and concisely, and divest your language as far as possible of technicalities. Give your evidence slowly, for it has to be taken down, not only by the coroner, but by the reporters. Give it in your own way and do not be interrupted by any one. The coroner may stop you and say, 'Quite so, and then you applied the usual remedies?' This is all very well if you forgot something, but if your treatment has been strictly correct, let the court have the benefit of it." Regarding the *ptomaines* (cadaveric alkaloids), the advice is given that every medical man should get up all about them before giving evidence in a court of justice; this is important, as the defence in a case of poisoning might be that the reactions obtained in examination of the organs, especially of bodies which have been buried, were due to cadaveric alkaloids, and not to poison administered.

Another paragraph indicates one of the later developments of toxicological practice. "Think over carefully the questions you are likely to be asked, and be prepared to answer them. Read up the literature of the subject, and let your knowledge be up to date. If you do not know much about it, telegraph to some leading toxicologist and get him to coach you up in it, or at least to send you an abstract of the recent literature. It will pay you in the long run. Barristers constantly do this—why should not you?"

On the whole, this seems to be a compact and handy little manual; it treats practically of everything that can be considered as lying within its proper domain, and appears to be thoroughly reliable.

---

*Medical Diagnosis: a Manual of Clinical Methods.* By J. GRAHAM BROWN, M.D. Edinburgh: Bell & Bradfute. 1882.

AMONG the many text-books on the subject of physical diagnosis and clinical methods that have come under our notice, the present work by Dr. J. Graham Brown undoubtedly

ranks as one of the best. The subject is one which is difficult to treat in a systematic way, and which is best taught by and learned from demonstrations in the wards, at which students have an opportunity of using their eyes, ears, and hands for themselves. While, however, this is admitted, no one will deny that the student may be greatly benefited by having a good text-book beside him to which he can refer in reflecting over a past, or preparing for a future, demonstration, and such a book he has in that now under consideration.

The first chapter deals with "the general aspect, condition, and circumstances of a patient," and the remaining ones go over, in great detail, the methods of examining the different organs and functions of the body. In all works of this kind there is, as a rule, some degree of sameness in the method of treatment and in the arrangement of the facts discussed, and in certain parts the present one is no exception to the rule. While, therefore, we do not think that there is anything in the book which will not be found in most of the other good manuals of clinical medicine, yet the facts and theories are stated in such clear and concise language, and the arrangement adopted is so good, that the work cannot fail to recommend itself to the student. Besides, the teacher who is engaged in the conduct of small tutorial classes in the wards of an infirmary, feels the need of a good book, not only for the purpose of recommending it to his students, but also to help him in arranging the plan of his demonstrations; and for either of these purposes we do not think he will be disappointed with Dr. Brown's work.

Personally we have been greatly pleased with it, and have had, and will have, much pleasure in recommending it to students.

---

*Practical Lessons in Elementary Physiology and Physiological Anatomy for Schools and Science Classes.* By D. M'ALPINE, F.C.S. London: Ballière, Tindall & Cox. 1883.

THIS book is issued with a definite purpose. Its aim, as stated in the preface, is "to encourage the practical teaching and study of elementary physiology and physiological anatomy in our schools and science classes," and it is well adapted for this class of students. It starts with the wise idea that facts in natural history should be acquired at first hand. There is a very general belief that biology should form part of a modern education, and school boys are now expected to follow the example of the ancient augurs, and pry into the entrails of animals. This book will help them to do so intelligently and