

*On Giant Urticaria.* By J. L. MILTON, Senior Surgeon to St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, etc. London : Harrison & Sons : 1878.

WE notice this brochure of Mr Milton's, which is now reprinted at greater length from a paper which originally appeared in this journal, because a peculiar form of disease is described in it which does not so far seem to have attracted much attention, though in its milder varieties not of extreme rarity. The disease consists essentially in the development, on some part of the body, of more or less rounded, usually, though not always, hard swellings, varying in size from a walnut or thereabout to that even of the fist. The region of the eyes is a common locality, as is also such fleshy parts as the hip or thigh. They not unfrequently appear first in the night, attain slowly their full development, and as gradually disappear. In colour they may vary from the natural skin-colour to a pale pink, or even a reddish hue, as is shown in the chromolithograph of the most severe of Mr Milton's five cases. The mucous membranes are often similarly affected, as that of the throat and nose and the surface of the tongue. In one instance, what Mr Milton calls herpes, appeared on the prepuce ; it might, however, have equally well been termed urticaria bullosa. Subjective sensations vary ; in some the itching and tingling were extremely severe ; in other cases, again, the only unpleasantness connected with the disease arose from the feeling of tension produced by the swellings. Extraordinary chronicity characterized all the cases. Fresh outbreaks occurred at intervals of variable length, years even elapsing, till it finally waned, as is met with in ordinary urticaria. This giant form was associated with some other skin disease, notably with eczema, but also, in one instance, with psoriasis, and in another with pityriasis rubra. We are much interested in this latter connexion, since we recently met with similar swellings in a patient suffering from pityriasis rubra under our care, which, like those described by Mr Milton, were hard, indolent, of a pale pinkish hue, and were accompanied by some degree of itching and tension. In another case which came under our notice, the swellings were limited to the eyelids and parts round the orbit. The lumps appeared at intervals of about a fortnight, lasted three days, during which time the eyelids were either entirely closed, or could be opened only with difficulty. The patient, a lady, suffered from chronic rheumatic arthritis, but was not the subject of any other cutaneous affection. Mr Milton refers to Professor Graves' account of Dr Oppenheim's notice of what is called the Turkish disease, in which painful globular swellings appear during the night on the limbs. These are neither discoloured nor red, neither are they hotter than other parts, and though Mr Milton does not think so, seem to be identical, as far as can be determined from the quota-

tion, with this giant urticaria. There is a form of urticaria met with in Australia, and known popularly as "the swelling blight," supposed to be caused by the sting of some poisonous fly, which closely resembles Mr Milton's giant form. It also comes on during the night, and in the morning the lips or eyelids are seen to be enormously swollen and stiff, while in many cases they itch or tingle. The swellings are dense but not hard, not painful to touch, but very disfiguring. They usually attack females. During the hot weather of last midsummer we met with two instances of this same form of urticaria in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. In both cases the lips and mouth were attacked, but the swelling disappeared spontaneously in a couple of days, and affected no other region. The term "giant urticaria" seems a good one, as it adds nothing new to our terminology, and very well describes the general features of this singular form of disease. Treatment must be empirical, as the true nature and cause are unknown, and Mr Milton has not added anything to this. The publication of his cases and the illustrations will probably elicit some further facts.

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*A Hand-book of Therapeutics.* By SYDNEY RINGER, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in University College, etc. Seventh Edition. London: H. K. Lewis: 1879.

WE are glad to see that this most valuable treatise on Therapeutics has reached a *seventh* edition. It is unquestionably the ablest work on therapeutics which we possess in our language, and one which should be carefully perused, not only by students, but also by practitioners.

Having on several occasions spoken most favourably of Professor Ringer's work, it is sufficient to draw the attention of our readers to this new edition which has just been issued. The seventh edition contains chapters on the tongue, the pulse, the skin, and the temperature, with the indications they afford in treatment. These additional chapters are well written, and will render this edition even more valuable than any of those previously published.

Ringer's Therapeutics is a work so well known that it needs no commendation from us to ensure it a wide circulation.

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*The Science of Life.* London: J. BURNS: 1878.

THE intention of this pamphlet is of the best. The author has evidently thought much and earnestly on the subject he treats of; and we feel inclined to agree in a great measure with the sugges-