

a dozen people shall be permitted to breed fever in a house by herding together in a room only fit to accommodate a third of the number.

It has been said of sermons that they ought to contain some grand central idea around which the observations of the preacher should revolve, and towards which they should all converge. And we say the same of addresses such as that before us. At any rate, we habitually look for such a central idea. If we have not "reviewed" Dr. Rumsey's address in the ordinary signification of that word, we have done something better, for we have, if we mistake not, picked out *his* central idea, in the light of which his entire discourse ought to be studied. There is a great deal in it which, if not new, is so true, that it cannot be repeated too often, or enforced too urgently. Dr. Rumsey has not spoken inconsiderately. No one knows better than he, what he is talking about, so that his address not only deserves to be read, but will be read. We have rarely perused a more comprehensive address.

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ART. VI.—*On Asthma: its Pathology and Treatment.* By H. HYDE SALTER, M.D., F.R.S. Second Edition, 1868. Pp. 464.

ACCORDING to a well-established custom in the history of books, this second edition considerably exceeds its predecessor in bulk. Custom moreover requires not only additional matter, but also a declaration on the part of the author of the work, of the alterations, emendations and additions made; a requirement that must at least receive the commendation of reviewers who are called upon to reveal such particulars to their readers. Dutifully acquiescing in this practice, Dr. Salter tells us, in the preface to the second edition of his much valued work, that he has made few alterations in the views previously expressed by him in the first edition, and that the additions relate to therapeutics and largely consist in records of cases.

At this present period of medical literature, we may safely aver that additions of this character will be particularly appreciated by those actively engaged in the practice of their profession, who are frequently disappointed, when seeking for practical suggestions to aid them in the treatment of difficult and embarrassing cases, to find, after reading most able and subtle disquisitions on pathology and morbid anatomy in modern medical treatises consulted, the therapeutics of disease dismissed in a few lines of unprofitable generalities. Those who are brought into contact with medical men who are not speculative thinkers only, but active practitioners, can confirm the existence of this prevailing complaint of the little value of most modern treatises on medicine as guides to treatment. How to detect disease is a thoroughly well-worked problem; but

how to cure disease is one that has received too little attention from scientific physicians.

To return to Dr. Salter's account of his new matter. Much of this is made up of a notice of "the treatment of the asthmatic paroxysm by alcoholic stimulants; of the value of iodide of potassium as a remedy; of the therapeutical effects of chloroform," &c. He has "also added some interesting cases of uterine asthma, and asthma dependent on animal emanations. The number of tabulated cases has been raised from 44 to 223, and represents a mass of facts from which large and safe conclusions may be drawn, and which constitute (he remarks), in my opinion, one of the most valuable parts of the book."

Dr. Salter argues that asthma is intrinsically, and, with perhaps the exception of a single class of cases, exclusively a nervous disease; and that the nervous system is the seat of the essential pathological condition. Emphysema is the commonest product of asthma, and to explain its origin, the author adopts the hypothesis of emphysema propounded by Dr. Gairdner, admitting at the same time, with Dr. Walshe, that the connexion of that organic change with spasmodic seizures is certainly sometimes dependent on an intervening irritation or passive congestion of the tubes.

The consideration of the treatment of asthma occupies above 130 pages, and may consequently be pronounced adequate, and, we may add, complete. Why coffee gives relief, Dr. Salter would explain by reference to the particular nervous condition it produces—to the development of a state of mental activity and vivacity inimical to sleep,—sleep being favorable to the onset of the asthmatic paroxysm. Allowing this to be the *modus operandi* of coffee, it may also be assigned as that of strong tea, of alcohol and ammonia, of Indian hemp and ether, and other stimulants of undoubted value in asthma.

Of the merits of iodide of potassium as a remedy, the author speaks with faint praise. He finds it entirely fail in a great many cases, while those in which its success is complete are comparatively few.

The value of the various medicines, of hygienic conditions, of exercise and baths, of change of locality, &c., is discussed in detail, and numerous practical hints as to how and when to use particular remedies are interspersed. The narrative cases are, for the most part, related by the patients themselves, and constitute very interesting and instructive portraits of the disease. The tabulated cases reflect great credit upon the compiler; the number is so very large and the particulars collected so full and well arranged, that, to repeat the author's words, they "constitute one of the most valuable parts of the book," particularly to the student who would familiarise himself with the history of asthma and test the conclusions

arrived at, whether by Dr. Salter or other writers. In conclusion, we have to restate the opinion of the great value of this treatise of asthma expressed in the notice of the first edition.

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ART. VII.—*On Diseases of the Chest: being contributions to their Clinical History, Pathology and Treatment.* Part I. *Diseases of the Lungs*; Part II. *Diseases of the Heart and Thoracic Aneurism.* By A. T. H. WATERS, M.D., &c., London and Liverpool, 1868. 8vo. Pp. 418.

IN justice to the author it is necessary to copy the title in full, and also to place before the reader the purpose and scope of his work as set forth in the preface. For when we proceed to examine the contents of the volume, it is at once seen that it is far from being a complete treatise on Diseases of the Chest—pulmonary and cardiac. To quote the preface, the work is “but a series of contributions—chiefly in the form of lectures—to the clinical history, pathology and treatment of some of its more important affections.” In fact, it is almost wholly made up of clinical lectures delivered to the pupils of the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, of a few communications to medical societies and journals, and of a republication of the author’s well-known and valuable essays on the ‘Anatomy of the Lung’ and on ‘Emphysema.’ It may, in other words, be called an edition of collected works.

This statement of the nature of the treatise, though necessary on our part, should not be regarded as detracting in any measure from the value of its contents. To have a record of the views of such an experienced physician as Dr. Waters, and particularly in reference to the therapeutics of chest diseases,—a subject, we are happy to say, that occupies an important place in the several clinical lectures he has now published—is a desideratum.

The clinical lectures make up the bulk of the book, and are good examples of hospital teaching. Pneumonia is considered in a course of seven lectures, and the prominent position assigned in them to the subject of treatment will be indicated by quoting their several headings:—1, Pneumonia: its morbid anatomy and pathology; 2, its first morbid condition and earliest physical signs—cause of the crepitating râle, &c.; 3, treatment; 4, treatment—use of stimulants—cases; 5, complicated with delirium—cases—treatment; 6, occurring during rheumatic fever; 7, treatment—abstract of cases—pneumonia of children and of the aged; table of cases with abstract of treatment.

Those other diseases of the respiratory organs noticed in this treatise, have, however, not received the same amount of considera-