

THE THROAT AND NOSE AND THEIR DISEASES: Being the fifth, revised, and expanded edition of *The Throat and Its Diseases*, with illustrations by the author, LENNOX BROWNE. London: Balliere, Tindall & Cox, 1898.

WE may say at once that this is Great Britain's best work upon the diseases of the nose and throat. Even when it was first published, some twenty years ago, it was immediately recognized as a most valuable contribution to the literature of this specialty, and since then each successive edition has been so great an improvement upon its predecessor that now we may regard it as *facile princeps* among the many works on rhinology and laryngology that have appeared in Great Britain during the past dozen or fifteen years. For this last edition, the fifth, the author has been fortunate in obtaining the aid of Collier, Cagney, and Wingrave, each of whom has contributed matter of much value. Just previous to his death Cagney re-wrote the chapter on the nervous affections of the larynx, and this is now one of the most interesting and profitable chapters in the book. As a matter of course, the controversy respecting the validity of "Semon's law" is given ample reference, and the subject is brought well up to date. There can be no question that the weight of evidence, both that founded upon clinical observation and that upon experimental research, is very greatly in favor of our acceptance of Semon's conclusions as opposed to those of Grossman. Now that a general and keen interest has been aroused in the matter, closer clinical study, followed by more frequent and more minute post-mortem investigation, will probably lead to an early settlement of this somewhat heated discussion. To the consideration of the etiology of nasal and throat diseases has been added a brief but valuable chapter dealing with their bacteriology. This is illustrated sufficiently, and will prove an excellent guide to those who wish to increase in this way their diagnostic resources. In his chapter on diphtheria Browne is far from being enthusiastic in his approval of the antitoxin treatment. Conclusions derived from statistics and the apparently lessened mortality which they give he regards as almost valueless, because the bacteriological test has so greatly altered the former accepted proportion between the number of deaths from diphtheria and the actual number of cases of the disease. The microscope and the culture-tube now class a large number of cases as diphtheria which formerly, upon merely

clinical grounds, would have failed of recognition. This question of the value of the antitoxin treatment is another of those which will require a little more time to win over the skeptic and the ultra-conservative. One scarcely cares to criticise small matters of detail in this book, because, taking it as a whole, it is so excellent. It is quite elaborately produced, the illustrations being numerous, and, as a rule, most satisfactory. It is a work that will be best appreciated by specialists, and it is to them, indeed, that its size and price will probably limit its sale.

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