

REVIEWS.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. By **HORATIO C.**
WOOD, A.M., M.D., LL.D. (Yale), Professor of Ther-

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

apeutics and Clinical Professor of Nervous Diseases in the University of Pennsylvania, etc., and REGINALD H. FITZ, A.M., M.D., Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in Harvard University, etc. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1897.

THE authors state in their preface that this work is the "outcome of an attempt to view the practice of medicine simultaneously from the pathologic and therapeutic points of view," and there are few who, having read the book, will not admit that the attempt has been successful. Wood's eminence, his preëminence, in fact, as a therapeutic teacher, enables him to speak authoritatively on the treatment of disease, and all the therapeutics of the book have been written by him. Fitz's reputation as a pathologist renders the reading of the morbid anatomy of each chapter clear, and it is evident that, concerning most of the conditions, he has seen many examples.

The book begins with a full chapter on the diseases of the blood and of the ductless glands. The thyroid extract is heartily commended in cases of goiter and myxedema, but no reference is made to the recent discovery of the presence of iodine in the thyroid gland, which probably accounts for the benefits derived from this variety of animal extract in the proper cases. The locomotor and constitutional diseases, and the infectious diseases, are next discussed. The section on tuberculosis is especially well arranged and splendidly treated. The authors do not specifically recommend the injection of tuberculin, though they state that it is viewed with favor by some writers. The antitoxin treatment of diphtheria is urged "whenever the clinical features of the case warrant the diagnosis of diphtheria." The writers properly point out the difficulties of securing perfect results when the infection is a mixed one. No mention is made of the use of the antistreptococcus serum in cases of pyemia and septicæmia.

A chapter on "Animal Parasites," very complete and instructive, is followed by one on "Acute and Chronic Poisoning," which is a valuable element in the book. The "Diseases of the Nervous System" occupy the next 240 pages. In the treatment of this subject Wood has left nothing to be desired, though it is a little surprising that he has not referred to Quincke's lumbar puncture as a diagnostic measure.

The succeeding sections are devoted to the diseases of the circulatory apparatus, of the digestive apparatus, and of the peritoneum. The Charcot-Leyden crystals of asthma are spoken of as Charcot crystals. Under the diseases of the lungs tuberculosis is not described, being fully treated in the chapter on infectious diseases. Although the technic of staining and preparing microorganisms belongs, perhaps, more properly to works on diagnosis, a description of them would not be out of place in a book on practice so voluminous as this.

One turns naturally with some eagerness to the discussion of appendicitis in this work, since Fitz was the originator of the term and the first one to describe fully the morbid anatomy of the process. His original observations still stand as classical descriptions of the various forms of the process. The authors recommend surgical

treatment of appendicitis when the symptoms point to a perforation; when sixty hours of treatment shows no abatement of the symptoms; and "when a sudden increase in the local and general symptoms points toward the occurrence of perforation or the formation of pus." Operation in the interval of attacks is recommended, Wood preferring to have the appendix removed directly after the recovery of a second attack. Fitz advises removal in cases in which recurrences are frequent or the tendency to relapse is such as to produce a state of semi-invalidism.

The last section of the book is devoted to the diseases of the kidneys, with a full consideration of abnormalities of the urine. A formulary of twenty-eight prescriptions and a number of temperature charts are appended to the work. The index is quite complete.

On the whole, this latest addition may be cordially recommended as a text-book of medicine, it being a recent, full, and authentic exposition of the subject. The standing of its authors can be but enhanced by this publication.

The only objection to be made to the work of the publisher lies in the inferior quality of the paper.