

application of the electrode to the parts around the ear, he thinks that it must be due to the current passing through the sensory or motor centres of the hemispheres.

Lectures on the Localisation of Cerebral and Spinal Diseases.
By PROFESSOR CHARCOT. Translated and Edited by
WALTER B. HADDEN, M.D.Lond. The New Sydenham
Society. 1883.

This work is marked by the usual characteristics of M. Charcot's observations—original research, remarkable insight, and those powers of generalisation and of expression which are essential to a successful teacher. As he truly says of himself, he is no believer in the efficacy of generalities deprived of their material substratum. On no subject is the Professor more at home than on the localisation of cerebral diseases, and every clinical student of pathology must be glad to have such a guide in the fascinating study of the regional diagnosis of affections of the brain. M. Charcot's nomenclature is always precise and well defined—an essential requisite in this field of research, but one not sufficiently recognised, or at least acted upon, by many physicians. We could have wished that the same desire to be lucid had induced him to adopt the practice of labeling the regions themselves, in the plates, instead of following the customary but troublesome course of reference letters. This really involves the reader's translation of a language of signs instead of seeing the names of the various regions at a glance.

The early lectures give a rapid but clear sketch of the topography and microscopical appearances of the healthy brain. Then follows a description of lesions in the encephalon and cord. Lectures V.—IX. are devoted to the arterial circulation of the cerebrum, and the central grey nuclei and their lesions. Cerebral hemi-anæsthesia, crossed amblyopia, and lateral hemiopia form the subjects of the tenth lecture, and secondary degenerations of the eleventh. This completes Part First of the book. The Second Part is devoted to Spinal Localisations, and contains a vast amount of information in a small compass. We do not attempt to give a detailed notice of M. Charcot's views and descriptions. Our object in this short notice will be secured if we induce our readers to possess themselves of the work itself. It is well translated by Dr. Hadden, whose notes and introductory re-

marks are decidedly useful. We congratulate the Sydenham Society on having added so valuable a book to their series, and on having secured so competent and sympathetic a translator—one so thoroughly *en rapport* with the author, and *au courant* with the matter of which the book treats. M. Charcot's treatises have long been favourites with English physicians, and the one under review will not, we venture to say, be the least appreciated.

The Pedigree of Disease. By JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, F.R.S.
London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884. (First notice.)

We have here, we are told in the prefatory note, a reprint of the author's lectures delivered in 1881 at the Royal College of Surgeons. The purpose of the book must be read in the hope expressed by the author, "that these lectures may be found to *point* in the right direction." More than this is not possible within the compass of some hundred and odd pages, when the subjects dealt with have, as here, such wide bearings. What are these subjects, and what is the direction indicated to us? To many we fear the path may seem a backward one, which again brings us in view of those questions vexed—some of us had hoped, buried—which so long busied the minds of our predecessors. The words temperament, diathesis, idiosyncrasy, bring back a medicine of the past, recall ages dark with humours and vapours which clogged the senses, and which the light of modern science should have dispersed, but which, perhaps, she did but cast into the shade; for it may be that a clearer vision will enable us to penetrate these shades, and there discern the outlines of disconsolates, yet claiming at our hands either decent burial or restoration to the light of day.

Let us look, then, in the direction indicated, and, leaving metaphor, approach our task in plain, nineteenth century fashion. And first, this *temperament*—what is it?

The author's definition is: "The sum of the physical peculiarities of an individual, exclusive of all definite tendencies to disease." Stress is laid on the excluding clause as an essential in this definition, it being insisted that temperament thus defined has nothing whatever to do with disease—it is *physiological*, not *pathological*. It would be impossible, perhaps, to improve on Dr. Laycock's definition of temperament; Mr. Hutchinson thus quotes it: The