In the chapters on vestigia, he endorses Darwin's view that their persistence is relative to their original importance, this being further indicated by precocity of development, *e.g.*, the appendix of the cæcum is often as long at birth as in the full-grown man.

Atavism he defines as "the attainment of a functional or more or less full development of parts which for a given animal are suppressed during embryonic life, or undergo great modification;" and he endorses Gegenbaur's view that "atavistic parts do not belong to forms palæontologically remote or systematically far distant."

In chapter eight the transmission of embryonic defects of development is illustrated, and the non-transmissibility of mutilations proven. Cretinism (endemic) is not, however, a satisfactory example of transmission.

In treating of the causes of disease, the author remarks that infectious diseases do not depend so much on the presence of micro-organisms as on the existence of suitable conditions in the living bodies affected, a view that seems to have been neglected of late.

Tumours are ably described, and cancer is tritely defined as a biological weed. This part of the work and the concluding chapter on the zoological distribution of disease are full of interest, and fitly conclude a most satisfactory addition to popular science.

Twelve Lectures on the Structure of the Central Nervous System: *For Physicians and Students.* By Dr. Ludwig Edinger, Frankfort-on-the-Main. Second revised edition, with 133 illustrations. Translated by Willis Hall Vittum, M.D., St. Paul, Minn. Edited by C. Eugene Riggs, A.M., M.D., Professor of Mental and Nervous Diseases, University of Minnesota. Philadelphia and London: F. W. Davis. 1890.

The title of this octavo volume of 230 pp. will describe its scope. The subject will always be of great interest to the physician and psychologist, and any addition to its literature, giving a concise and clear description of the morphology, histology, and comparative anatomy of the brain, is welcome amongst our already numerous treatises on the subject. It is an extensive study, and to be treated fully would require much more space than is here given to it; but the author does not

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claim for his book the rank of being an exhaustive work, nor is it intended for beginners, "a general acquaintance with the coarser anatomy of the brain" being considered necessary before studying these lectures, which were originally delivered "before an audience composed of practising physicians," and are to be looked upon as an introduction to a more minute study of the central nervous system.

The methods of investigation by series of sections, by degenerations resulting from division of nerves, by atrophies in the still developing brain and cord due to the removal of peripheral or central nerve substance, by the study of the development of the medullary sheath, and the embryology and comparative anatomy of the brain of vertebrates are lightly touched upon in the first two lectures. The general histology of the brain, and a description of the convolutions and fissures of the surface of the cerebrum, occupy the third and fourth lectures, and then we come to the more minute histology of the different regions. The structure of the brain cortex, its connection with the deeper lying structures, and the distribution of the fibres of the corona radiata, together with its structures at the base of the brain, are more fully described in subsequent lectures.

The following extract from p. 109 will give a good idea of the style in which the book is written:—

"The connections between the cortex of the occipital lobe and some of the points of origin of the optic nerve have already been discovered. These connecting fibres make up the optic radiation, which passes from the occipital lobe to the most posterior part of the internal capsule, and from this point can be traced into the thalamus and the brachium of the anterior quadrigeminal body. It is shown in Fig. 44. Its fibres, however, do not end, as there represented, in the lateral portions of the occipital lobe, but trending toward the median line, in planes which lie outside of this section, extend as far as the cuneus. In destructive disease of the occipital lobe, and of the posterior part of the internal capsule, the same symptoms appear as in similar lesions of the optic track on the same side. The outer half of the retina of the eye on the injured side, and the inner half of the retina of the opposite eye, degenerate."

The last four lectures are devoted to the medulla oblongata and the spinal cord, and form, we think, the best part of the work. The course of the fibres in the cord, the transition of the cord into the medulla, and the changes which take place in the arrangement of the fibres are clearly described. The

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results attained by Starr are given in a useful table of the localization of function in the different segments of the cord, and throughout the work we are made acquainted with the effects of lesions of the various parts of the central nervous system. The book is well got up, printed on good paper, and in clear type, and the diagrams are numerous and well selected. The phraseology is forcible, but we trust that such modes of expressing position as "dorsad of," "further caudad," and "ventrad into" will never commend themselves to English readers on this side of the Atlantic.

An Illustrated Encyclopædic Medical Dictionary: Technical Terms in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences in the Latin, English, French, and German Languages. By FRANK P. FOSTER, M.D., Editor of the "New York Medical Journal." New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1890.

The Editor expresses the hope in his Preface that this work will commend itself to the medical profession. Speaking for the first two volumes which have now appeared, we have no hesitation in saying that the Editor's hope has been amply fulfilled.

The labour bestowed on this work must have been enormous. The information it contains is trustworthy, and covers a most extensive range of subjects. The illustrations are excellent.

We recommend every public library, and especially medical libraries, to possess themselves of this remarkable dictionary. For private individuals it will form a library in itself. We shall look with great interest to succeeding volumes, and hope that the appreciation of the medical profession and the public for the work will encourage the Editor to proceed in the same praiseworthy manner to the end.

Why Does Man Exist? By ARTHUR JOHN BELL. Isbister, London. 1890.

The book is described as the continuation and conclusion of a preceding work, entitled, "Whence Comes Man?" already noticed in this Journal.

A systematic analysis of the present work would require much space and time. The key-stone of the elaborate ideal arch, erected by the author, is represented at page 175 in

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