cheek-bones makes it difficult to assign them to the Turanian family, but they have many other points in common with it. They seem to have preceded the other brachycephalic race in Europe.

The next chapter is devoted to neolithic culture, and is written with the object of showing how the stage of civilization, revealed by archæological discoveries in the earliest lake dwellings of Europe, corresponds with that depicted by names of things and animals, which are common to the various Aryan languages. Also how, with varying rapidity and in a different manner, language and civilization gradually developed side by side. Further, how the language and civilization of the various tribes were affected by contact with more civilized alien races, such as the Etruscans and Phœnicians.

(To be continued.)

Evolution and Disease. By J. Bland Sutton. "The Contemporary Science Series," with 136 engravings.

The author gives no clue beyond his name to his identity, but the medical reader, even without this, might decide the question of authorship from the characteristic originality of view, the frequent terseness of expression, and the general suggestiveness which pervade the work. The book is as interesting as a novel, without sacrifice of accuracy or system, and is calculated to give an appreciation of the fundamentals of pathology to the lay reader, while forming a useful collection of illustrations of disease for medical reference.

The author only claims in this work to indicate, by examples, the natural history of disease, to point out its evolution *pari passu* with that of animal forms, and the regulation of its manifestations, by the laws which govern physiological processes.

The consideration of the enlargement of parts from increased use, overgrowth and irritation, is followed by that of disuse and its effects, in which the author states the conclusions he has arrived at from pathological and embryological bases of the probable origin of the central canal of the nervous system, from the intestinal canal of an invertebrate ancestor. This view Dr. Gaskell has coincidently and independently worked out, and although it is not yet generally accepted, may ere long receive the attention it merits.

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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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