

*Ebstein on the Regimen to be adopted in Gout.* Translated by JOHN SCOTT, M.A., M.B. J. and A. Churchill, 1885.

*Gout and its relations to Diseases of the Liver and Kidneys.* By ROBSON ROOSE, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed. London: H. K. Lewis, 1885.

The first pages of Dr. Ebstein's short treatise deal with the pathology of gout. The author's theory is certainly his own. It recognises in the gouty patient "a congenital and generally hereditary predisposition" towards the production of uric acid in the muscles and the medulla of the bones; further, it recognises a "limited retention in definite parts of the body of the fluids overladen with uric acid combinations." The reasons brought forward in favour of these views are very few, and those few certainly not conclusive; and on the simplicity of the doctrine we cannot compliment the author.

The author passes to the consideration of the treatment of gout by dieting, and he runs counter to some prevailing views on this subject. Thus he maintains that fats are beneficial in the dietary of the gouty, and that, rather than cause dyspepsia, fats may beneficially act on those forms of dyspepsia which result from a diet over-rich in starchy foods. On p. 28 the author states that fats "are only really contra-indicated in those cases (of dyspepsia) which are developed in consequence of mechanical insufficiency of the stomach, *i.e.*, where the muscular elements of the stomach are insufficient to empty its contents into the bowel in the normal fashion." Does this mean that fats constitute an increased impediment in the above cases, or what does it mean?

On the matter of alcohol, the author is not very clear, as may be seen on comparing pages 32 and 51. The abundant potation of water is not advised.

The work strikes us as a very meagre production; it may, however, serve this purpose, namely, to make us long for more knowledge of dietetics. At present in this field each man can ride his own hobby to his heart's content, however sorry the jade.

If we now take up the little treatise by Dr. Roose and test it by the question, Are we any further advanced in our knowledge of gout? we think the answer must be in the negative. Chapters I. and II. embody the facts of gout and the theories as to the nature of gout. Chapter III. pursues

the questioning as to the nature of gout, and at the end of this chapter the author sums up in eight propositions his own views on the subject. These propositions, however, are not in substance new, and as they stand in position they are in part self-destructive. Thus, Proposition I. recognizes in uric acid the "materies morbi" of gout; this, we learn from a previous page, is equivalent to saying it is "the cause" of gout. Proposition III., on the other hand, refers the production of uric acid in excess to the "imperfect transformation of albuminous substances," and this, Proposition IV. declares to result chiefly from "functional disorder of the liver." It is, however, clear that, if this be so, uric acid can hardly take rank as the materies morbi—it can, at least, only stand as the proximate cause of the disease.

In the chapters on "Errors in Diet as a Cause of Gout, etc.," on "The Irregular Manifestations of Gout," and on "The Treatment of Gout," the reader is taken over familiar ground.

We are rather surprised at the rapid exhaustion of the first edition of this brochure.

The alienist who so frequently has to treat patients whose mental symptoms are associated with gout, turns to such works as those under review for help, but finds such a want of definite direction, or advice which is so very dubious, that he rises from their perusal with anything but a sense of gratitude to the authors.

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*The Discoverie of Witchcraft.* By REGINALD SCOT, Esq., being a Reprint of the First Edition, published in 1584. Edited, with explanatory notes, glossary, and introduction, by Brinsley Nicholson, M.D., Deputy-Inspector-General. London: Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C., 1886.

Dr. Nicholson has done good service in bringing out this reprint of a work which must always be remarkable in the history of Witchcraft. The original title ran thus:

The Discoverie of Witchcraft, wherein the lewde dealing of witches and witchmongers is notable detected, the knauerie of coniuorers, the impietie of inchantors, the follie of soothsaiers, the impudent falshood of cousenors, the infidelitie of atheists, the pestilent practises of Pythonists, the curiositie of figurecasters, the