

Neale's Medical Digest. Third edition, 1840-1890. London :
Ledger, Smith and Co.

This is an age of works of reference, and in view of the encyclopædic dimensions of the records of scientific labour in every department of knowledge, such works have become absolute necessities. Amongst them Dr. Neale's Medical Digest has earned for itself an excellent name. After first receiving the imprimatur of the New Sydenham Society, it subsequently launched forth on its own account, and the present volume belongs to the third edition. Dr. Neale's work is a digest of a certain number of periodicals which are enumerated in the preface. They include the valuable "British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review" from 1848-78. It need hardly be said that a faithful index to any one periodical during a period of fifty years would prove most valuable, even outside its own limit, for, as Dr. Neale says, it is most striking to note "the uniformity with which suggestions for any new treatment, etc., run through all the periodicals." On this account an index to one series becomes, to some extent, an index to another contemporary series. Dr. Neale's index takes in, however, not one periodical, but eleven, of which the "Lancet" has the longest record, viz., from 1837-1890, and the wide area thus covered makes the work of the greatest value as a record of English medical journalism. The use of the large type central numbers is likely at first sight to cause the reader to imagine that the whole subject referred to is concluded in a given section thus numbered. This is not so, and we cannot help thinking that the labour of renumbering from a printed copy would not prove so very arduous—certainly not to one who has carried through the rest of this prodigious piece of work. Not that there is much real difficulty in finding what one is seeking, and we can confidently recommend the Digest as most serviceable to the profession. The author has earned the hearty thanks of all workers in Medicine.

La Neurasthénie, Maladie de Beard. Par le Dr. FERNAND
LEVILLAIN. Paris: A. Malvine. 1891.

Prof. Charcot prefaces this work of an old pupil of his, and in so doing he draws attention to one or two points of interest. 1st. That the subjects of neurasthenia are by no means confined to the upper classes, enervated by over-civilization, but are to be counted on a large scale amongst the work-a-day