ART. IX.—*Contributions to the Study of some Thoracic Diseases.*

By JAMES CUMING, M.A., M.D. Dublin, 1868. Pp. 22.

THIS pamphlet is a reprint of some clinical papers on thoracic diseases that appeared in our contemporary, 'The Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science,' in February and May, 1868. The first paper refers to the occurrence of mitral regurgitation not arising from organic disease; the second is occupied with the record of a case of aneurysm of the thoracic aorta, in which tracheotomy was performed to relieve impending suffocation dependent on the narrowing of the trachea by the pressure of the tumour, and on stretching of the recurrent laryngeal nerve. This case is illustrated by an engraving showing the aorta, the aneurysm, and the parts implicated by the latter. The last communication is of a case of empyema, with inequality of the radial pulses and paralysis of the diaphragm.

Those engaged specially with the study of thoracic diseases will be pleased to obtain these illustrations of less common lesions, particularly when derived from so successful an observer as Dr. Cuming.

ART. X.—*A Manual for the Classification, Training, and Education of the Feeble-minded, Imbecile, and Idiotic.* By P. MARTIN DUNCAN, M.B., &c., and WILLIAM MILLARD. London. Pp. 191.

THE efforts which are now making to establish asylums for idiots, of which the northern counties are showing a noble example, afford the best proof of the increased interest taken in these hapless beings, and of the earnest desire generally felt to alleviate their condition.

The work before us is well timed, and is in every way creditable to its authors. Its comprehensive title-page is sufficiently indicative of its design. In the preface they modestly state that they do not propose to give a scientific history of idiocy, the difficulties of which they seem fully to appreciate, but to limit themselves to what is practical, resting their qualifications for the task on a long acquaintance with the peculiarities of those unfortunate children who cannot be educated by ordinary methods.

The classification which they propose of the varieties of idiocy seems well adapted for the ends in view. As very informing in itself, we cannot do better than quote it with the remarks accompanying it:—