menting on them, or on the brief remarks of the author on the diseases to which the mortality has been owing; however, in justice to him, we can honestly say that they are always judicious, and often valuable as controverting doctrines either of an unsound kind, or not established by fact; such as the opinion that consumption, fever, and the like, on one hand, and malignant diseases on the other hand, are equivalents.

ART. VI.—*The Personal Responsibility of the Insane.* By JAMES F. DUNCAN, M.D., &c., Dublin. 1865. Pp. 98.

On opening this little work our instant impression was that its title—'The Personal Responsibility of the Insane'—is a misnomer, inasmuch as the term itself implies irresponsibility. Our next impression was one of regret arising from the author's statement in the preface, that the volume he puts forth is "intended rather as a popular essay than a regular scientific treatise," believing as we do, from the nature of the subject, that it is ill adapted for any treatment but the most scientific; and, after the perusal of its pages with due attention, we must confess that we have not found reason to alter our opinion. Having said thus much, we further regret to say that we consider the publication altogether a mistake, and, as we think, more likely from the manner in which the subject is discussed, to perplex and bewilder than to enlighten unprofessional readers into whose hands it may happen to come. Whilst it is well written in flowing words and well-formed sentences, it is neither distinguished for originality of observation on logical reasoning, nor for the absence of truisms and solecisms.

The author dedicates his book to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and ends it with a summary of his conclusions, eight in number, which he offers with a degree of confidence that rather surprises us, considering the difficulty of the inquiry and the caution that should be used in conducting it.

ART. VII.—*A Treatise on the Chronic Inflammation and Displacements of the Unimpregnated Uterus.* By WM. H. BYFORD, M.D. Philadelphia, 1864.

2. *The Practice of Medicine and Surgery applied to the Diseases and Accidents incidental to Women.* By W. H. BYFORD. Philadelphia, 1865.

THE author of the above works is professor of obstetrics and

diseases of women and children in the Chicago Medical College, and is evidently possessed of much practical knowledge in the department of his profession he has chosen, although, as a writer, the brevity so necessary for distinctness of meaning and clearness of expression cannot be attributed to him. The first book mentioned is so completely embodied in the second that it is only necessary for us to notice the latter; and the subjects embraced in this are so well understood, and have been so thoroughly described by English authors, that no very lengthened remarks would benefit the readers of our review. The object of the author has been to furnish to the student and junior members of the profession a concise, yet sufficiently complete, practical, and reliable treatise, to meet their wants in everyday practice, and his object has been very fairly accomplished. The work treats, in succession, of diseases and accidents of the labia and perinæum, diseases of the vulva, vaginitis, disorders of menstruation, uterine inflammations and displacements, cancer, tumours, puerperal fever, &c., and each subject is dealt with as if by a man of experience.

The more elaborate portions of the work are those which relate to chronic inflammation of the uterus and cervix, and to puerperal fever. The effects of chronic inflammation of the uterus and cervix upon other organs, and upon the system generally, appear to us to be somewhat exaggerated, although we admit there is much truth in the author's statement that "these diseases are often overlooked, misunderstood, and neglected, and that an immense amount of suffering that is now borne as a necessity by women might be relieved, if we would investigate and study their ailments with as much patience as, and with no more reserve than, we approach and investigate lung diseases or throat affections." The sympathetic disorders chiefly referred to as consequences of chronic inflammation of the uterus and cervix are functional disturbance of the stomach, bowels, and liver, cephalalgia, affections of the spinal cord, pains in the pelvic region, extension of inflammation to the bladder and rectum, hyperæsthesia, anæsthesia, spasms, and manifestations of moral and intellectual perverseness. Many other ill consequences are dwelt upon, probably with more importance than they deserve; the hobby is ridden too hard, but the subject is well deserving of consideration, and the remarks of the author are worthy of attentive perusal. With respect to puerperal fever, the following remarks are judicious, and should oftener be acted upon than is usually the case:

"A very important part of the treatment of puerperal peritonitis is prophylactic or preventive; and as epidemic influence constitutes the principal and efficient cause in many instances, it should be our

object, firstly, to avoid it; and secondly, when we cannot do this, as nearly as possible to counteract it. Probably the only way to fulfil the requisitions of the first proposition is to remove our patient entirely beyond the infected district. We can more effectually and certainly accomplish this with pregnant women than patients predisposed to attacks of any other form of epidemic disease, for we know precisely when to expect an attack of puerperal peritonitis, and, fortunately, we can know this for weeks, nay, even months beforehand. The woman will not be attacked until she is delivered. When any other epidemic prevails in a community everybody is liable to it at all times; every sacrifice ought, therefore, to be made to send our patient, several weeks before the expected confinement, entirely beyond the region endangered, and allow her to remain there until the circumstances which render her susceptible have passed away."

These observations are followed by others of much value in protecting patients from the action of epidemic influence; but few of our readers will admit, at the present day, that the *curative* treatment advised by the author is either safe or practicable. His principles of treatment are, first, that it must be instituted as soon as possible after the attack—when practicable, contemporaneously with it; secondly, that an *immediate* and *powerful impression* must be produced by it. The first proposition no one will dispute, but, on the contrary, most will agree with the author that whatever is effected in the way of a cure must be done generally in the first twelve hours after the attack; but when he goes on to say there are but very few remedies sufficiently prompt and powerful in their action to accomplish favorable results, probably but one—venesection—and that we may regard bleeding and emetics as the only remedies capable of interrupting the disease, we believe that, in this country at least, there will be but few practitioners sufficiently bold to bleed a patient with puerperal disease, "in the sitting posture, with a stream as large as the vein will allow, and until there is an approach to syncope, and as soon as reaction occurs repeat it." Our experience of puerperal diseases, as they occur in this country, would lead to a very different mode of treatment—an anodyne and supporting system; bleeding, except on certain occasions locally, being in almost every instance inadmissible.

ART. VIII.—*Elements of Physics, or Natural Philosophy. Written for general use, in non-technical language.* By NEIL ARNOTT, M.D., F.R.S., &c. Tenth and completed edition, Part 2. London, 1865, pp. 325.

THIS second part or volume, is deserving of the same com-