ART. IV.—*Diagrams of the Nerves of the Human Body; exhibiting their Origin, Divisions, and Connexions, with their Distribution to the various Regions of the Cutaneous Surface, and to all the Muscles.* By W. H. FLOWER, F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon to, and Demonstrator of Anatomy at, the Middlesex Hospital.—London, 1861.

THIS work, consisting of six folio diagrammatic plates, with a certain amount of letter-press, "aims at placing the knowledge of the anatomy of the nervous system in a form easily accessible, as well to students as to those whose avocations no longer afford time or opportunity for elaborate anatomical investigation." The nomenclature used in the sixth edition of 'Quain's Elements of Anatomy' is adopted, and the diagrams themselves are the results of fresh dissection on the part of the author, in addition to assistance derived from the works of Quain, Swan, Herschfeld, and Leveillé. We are quite sure that the work is calculated to be of very great assistance to the advanced student in the dissecting-room as well as in his own private study, clearly remembering as we do to have experienced in our own case the want of a lucid exposition of the various nerves of the body, so arranged and presented to the eye as readily to be remembered. Considerable facility in fixing the uses and destination of various nerves upon the mind, results from the names of the muscles to which the nerves are affixed being printed in red letters. On each plate we have columns pointing out, as regards the nerves described, their "origin from the surface of the encephalon," their "foramen of exit from the cranium," and their numerical designation according to the respective plans of Willis and Sömmering. We think that Mr. Flower would have done well to have added a column giving the "*real*" (deep-seated) encephalic origin, as well as the "*apparent*" one of each nerve, as that is physiologically of much more importance.

For practical common-use purposes we should be glad to see these diagrams stiffly mounted and varnished, so as to be hung up against the wall and freely handled; and we hope that we may hear of their being heartily recommended by our various anatomical demonstrators to their pupils.

ART. V.—*A Manual of Botany, including the Structure, Functions, Classification, Properties, and Uses of Plants.* By ROBERT BENTLEY, F.L.S., M.R.C.S.E., Professor of Botany in King's College, London; Professor of Botany and Materia Medica to the Pharmaceutical Society, &c. Illustrated by nearly 1200 Woodcuts.—London, pp. 811.

CLASS-BOOKS, text-books, outlines, manuals, rudiments, introductions, elements—the cry is still they come! In looking over the work whose title stands at the head of this notice, we are naturally induced to make comparisons with similar elementary works of Lindley, Henfrey, Asa Gray, Balfour, and others in common use in our schools,

and the result is, we regret to say, not altogether favourable to the new manual.

Originality of matter is of course not to be expected in such a book, but on the other hand, much freshness and interest may be imparted to a work, the compilation of which is effected and regulated by the judgment and experience of the compiler, rather than by the mere mechanical transference of matter from the pages of another writer, himself, perhaps, a compiler. Slips of the pen and inadvertencies, such as the describing of the tuber of an orchis as a form of root, or the erroneous way in which the dehiscence of the fruit of *Digitalis* is described, may be remedied in a second edition, when we should be glad to find also some more extended attempt to systematize the multitude of details which usually prove so repulsive to the student, but which become much more attractive when their import is explained by the theories of vegetable construction and the great principle of unity in diversity.

We cannot but think it an important omission that Professor Bentley has not devoted a chapter to the method of describing plants, as this is a point on which so much stress is now laid by examiners, and rightly so, for nothing tends in a higher degree to promote the faculty of accurate observation than the process of describing fully, yet tersely and with accuracy, the common plants that a student is likely to meet with. In no other way can the cramming process, with its attendant cerebral dyspepsia, be more effectually treated. The student for whom the present work is intended is in no position to make the comparisons which have led to the foregoing remarks, in spite of which, we do not hesitate to say that there are many points in Professor Bentley's Manual which will ensure the popularity of the book among students; thus it is compact, in clear type, abundantly illustrated, arranged in a manner which Mr. Bentley's long experience as a teacher of medical and pharmaceutical students has taught him to consider the best adapted to the purpose in view. Last, not least, it is provided with a double index.

ART. VI.—*Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London.* Vol. II.
For the Year 1860. With a List of Officers, Fellows, &c.
—pp. 368.

THE Obstetrical Society, yet in its infancy, is evidently enlarging its borders, and its fellows are to be congratulated on the merits of this their second volume of Transactions, which contains as many as thirty-four communications. Besides a number of instructive separate facts and "cases," we have several papers on general questions connected with obstetric inquiries, diseases of women and children, &c. Thus we find papers On the Influence of Belladonna on the Mammary Glands;* On

* We would direct the reader's attention to a highly interesting case related in the American Medical Monthly Journal, Sept. 1860, in which arrest of milk, which had been secreted continuously for three years, was effected by the outward application of fluid extract of belladonna and glycerine.—[Ed.]