by it, and that the progress of cancer itself has been occasionally somewhat checked by its use."

As the drug is in itself so dangerous that even the author does not venture to recommend it, except in cases where the cancer might be easily extirpated with the knife; and as more manageable caustics have been found for cases which seem appropriate for the caustic treatment, while the specific action of arsenic on cancer has been sufficiently disproved, what encouragement can there be for further trials of what has been amply tried under the auspices of eminent surgeons, and has completely failed?

ART. XIII.—*The Wasting Diseases of Infants and Children.*

By EUSTACE SMITH; M.D., &c. London, 1868. Pp. 261.

The Surgical Diseases of Children. By T. HOLMES, M.A., F.R.C.S., &c. Second Edition. London, 1869. Pp. 687.

Leçons Cliniques sur les Maladies Chirurgicales des Enfants. Par M. Giraldès. 4^e et 5^e Fascicule. Paris, 1869.

Softening of the Stomach in Children in Australia. By C. E. REEVES, B.A., M.D. Melbourne. 1867. Pp. 66.

IN the very useful little volume before us, Dr. Eustace Smith gives an account of the principal chronic diseases of early life. These are connected, in his scheme, by the symptom "wasting," which is common to them all, and which we should have been glad to have found more distinctly defined in his Introduction. The principal merits of the book are the practical hints for diagnosis and treatment, many of which are very valuable: its chief defect is the abuse of reference to other authors, in a degree quite disproportioned to a merely clinical work. Sir W. Jenner's published lectures, especially, are so well known to all who take any interest in children's diseases, that it might surely have been sufficient to confess a general obligation to them, instead of constantly repeating his name.

We are very glad to see that Mr. Holmes's "Surgical Diseases of Children" has so soon reached a second edition. He has added to his now standard work a chapter on thoracentesis, and one on orthopædic surgery. In the vexed question of the treatment of club-foot, he is decidedly in favour of tenotomy in all but the slightest cases of deformity, to which he considers Mr. Barwell's apparatuses most applicable.

The fourth and fifth parts of M. Giraldès' lectures conclude the series. One principal objection to them is that, being so good, they are too short. The lecture on acute periostitis ("la périostite

phlegmoneuse diffuse") is very suggestive, as pointing to the very close connection between this disease and acute rheumatism, if indeed the former is not merely an unusual form of the latter. As Mr. Holmes's treatment of the results of periostitis by resection has met with rather severe critics in France, it may be well to remark that M. Giraldès entirely approves of the course taken by the English surgeon. Coxalgia is dealt with in a very detailed manner; and the other lectures, on genito-urinary diseases, on resection of the knee, on injuries to the cranium, and on traumatic tetanus, fulfil entirely the promise which the earlier parts afforded.

Dr. Reeves has had ample opportunities (which he has used well) of observing that imperfectly understood condition, softening of the stomach; and, had he realised what are the points still in dispute, he might have done much towards finally settling them. It appears that this change is observed after death in infants who have suffered from an acute form of vomiting and purging, much resembling infantile cholera. Attacks of this kind are common during the hot months in the ill-drained and ill-ventilated houses which abound in Melbourne: Dr. Reeves is no doubt right in looking upon them as merely forms of "colonial fever," which is so common in the capital of Victoria. Whatever the precise nature of this fever may be, we may probably consider the stomach-affection to be produced (like the lung-congestion of older patients) by perverted innervation. Morphia, either by the mouth or by the rectum, has proved the most effectual remedy in Dr. Reeves' hands, and he has generally combined it with acetate of lead or tannin. He also strongly recommends the rectal use of morphia in ordinary infantile cholera, which we see in England as well as in Australia, and which he carefully distinguishes from the epidemic disease of which he treats.

ART. XIV.—*A Treatise on the Transport of Sick and Wounded Troops.* By Deputy Inspector-General T. LONGMORE, C.B., Professor of Military Surgery in the Army Medical School, &c. Printed under the Superintendence of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Pp. 514.

THE art of war in all its branches has made wonderful progress of late years. Indeed, it may almost be said to have passed through a revolution since the old days of the Peninsular campaigns. The long peace which followed the battle of Waterloo gave time and leisure for the development of arts and sciences; and when the Crimean war broke out in 1854 the conditions of warfare were no longer what they had been half a century before. Some notable changes had taken place. Steam-ships and railways had sprung