ART. XIX. — *Outlines of Surgical Diagnosis*. By GEORGE H. B. MACLEOD, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Lecturer on Surgery to Anderson's University; Surgeon to the Glasgow Infirmary, &c.—*London*, 1864. 8vo, pp. 543.

THIS book has the merit of being exactly what its name imports. It is a treatise on surgical diagnosis. It is not a system of surgery, for it neither includes pathology nor treatment. These subjects are only incidentally mentioned, and do not enter into the plan of the work.

The author takes his stand on the maxim, "qui sufficit ad cognoscendum, sufficit ad curandum." Certain it is that we cannot lay too much stress on the necessity of an accurate and precise diagnosis. Until we have clearly made out the nature of the case before us, prognosis must be impossible, treatment must be empirical, and the result will most probably be unsatisfactory. We hail, therefore, as a useful addition to our professional literature any book which helps us to recognise and to distinguish diseases. It is with this view that Dr. Macleod has set forth the diagnosis and differentiation of those affections which fall under the care of the surgeon. This he has done in clear and simple language, and in a way well suited to show the points of similarity and the points of contrast. He has chosen the alphabetical arrangement. Each subject finds a place according to its initial letter. The work opens with "abscess," and closes with "veins." The author is well aware of the disadvantages attending this mode of arrangement; but he has endeavoured, as far as possible, to meet them by the addition of a full and copious index.

At the outset of his work Dr. Macleod explains, in an introductory chapter, the various means of diagnosis at our disposal, and the relative value of each. The newest instruments and the most recent methods of investigation are mentioned, and their application explained, so that the "science of diagnosis" is brought up to the level of our present knowledge.

The 'Outlines' contains, as we have said, neither pathology nor therapeutics. It is not, therefore, suited to take its place among systematic works on the principles and practice of surgery; but it is likely, we think, to prove of much use to the student or to the practitioner who finds himself perplexed by the number of diseases which present somewhat similar appearances, and who desires a short and pointed statement of the symptoms and diagnostic marks of each. The hospital surgeon, too, whose business it is to demonstrate the means of recognising and distinguishing diseases, will find those points which ought to form the basis of clinical instruction clearly set forth in Dr. Macleod's pages.

This volume was not put into our hands until a very late date, when the space at our disposal was limited. Under other circumstances, we would gladly have given our readers a fuller account of a book which is well worthy of their attention.