ART. VIII.—*How to Work with the Microscope. A Course of Lectures on the Practical Use of the Instrument and Microscopical Manipulation.* By LIONEL L. BEALE, M.B., F.R.S., &c. Illustrated Edition.—1861. pp. 124.

THIS volume, of the same size as the previous edition which we favourably noticed in a former number,* is so far superior to it that it possesses "numerous explanatory illustrations," which were wanting, and which we before recommended as necessary to give the work that complete practical value of which it was capable. For efficient working in the clinical wards, and out-patient room, and for the proper study of histology, physiological and pathological, this little volume appears all-sufficient as an instructor. The illustrations consist of thirty-two plates and one hundred and fifty figures.

ART. IX.—*On Gout: its History, its Causes, and its Cure.* By W. GAIRDNER, M.D. Fourth Edition.—London. pp. 430.

THE former editions of this work are well known to the profession as offering the reliable results of experience, judiciously arranged and presented, by one who has seen many years of practice, in a pleasant, intelligible, and scholarly manner. The new edition places before us fresh matter, and is otherwise recommended as containing such notes of Dr. Braun (the well-known physician at Wiesbaden), who translated Dr. Gairdner's work into German, as set forth his views of the nature of gout. We naturally were anxious to see how far the author fell in with the opinions of Dr. Garrod, as to the part played by uric acid in the causation of gout. The influence of this acid in the blood, as the sole and sufficient cause of gout, advocated by Dr. Garrod, is denied *in toto* by Dr. Gairdner, and as a consequence, the latter repudiates the expression "uric-acid diathesis." With regard to the use of lithia in gout, a remedy highly recommended of late, Dr. Gairdner asserts that as yet he has "not discovered its superiority." It is manifest, however, that, hitherto, too short a time has elapsed since its introduction, and it has been too insufficiently tried by medical men to warrant any positive or final conclusions of one kind or another.

Respective of the comparative value of alkalies and neutral salts in removing the uric acid from the urine, Dr. Gairdner is very strenuous as regards the claims of the latter. He states that he has never seen the uric acid disappear, or even "in any marked degree diminish," under the former; but he has "seen it vanish under the influence of the neutral salts (the phosphates, tartrates, and citrates of potash and soda), when it had resisted all change from the employment of carbonates." Not in any way pretending to give here an analysis of this book, with the former editions of which our readers are so familiar, we cannot close this brief notice without recalling their attention to the valuable sections containing remarks on the too frequent abuse of colchicum (as to the quantities administered); and also to the observations on so-called metastasis and metastatic gout.

* See Review, No. 40, p. 448.