REVIEW VIII.

1. *On Diseases of the Stomach, the Varieties of Dyspepsia, their Diagnosis and Treatment.* By S. O. HABERSHON, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., &c. London. 1866. Pp. 258.
2. *On the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Varieties of Dyspepsia, considered in relation to the Pathological Origin of the different forms of Indigestion.* By WILSON FOX, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., &c. London. 1867. Pp. 243.
3. *The Indigestions or Diseases of the Digestive Organs functionally treated.* By THOMAS KING CHAMBERS, Honorary Physician to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, &c. Second edition. London. 1867. Pp. 337.
4. *A Treatise on the Functions of Digestion; its Disorders, and their Treatment.* By F. W. PAVY, M.D., F.R.S., &c. London. 1867. Pp. 217.

Of the authors, the titles of whose works are given above, two, Dr. Chambers and Dr. Habershon, are already favourably known by their writings on the disease in question. Notices of their former contributions to the obscure class of morbid phenomena commonly arranged under the head of Dyspepsia are to be found in the volumes of our Review for 1856 and 1863. Nor is the topic one recently taken up by Dr. Fox, who, even when a student in Berlin, made the morbid conditions of the stomach a subject of research, the results of which he communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London in 1858. Lastly, of Dr. Pavy, we need hardly inform our readers that he, too, early in his career, made digestion a special subject of research, and distinguished himself as an original inquirer.

Similar as the works are in their general intent, each has a distinctive character of its own. Of this some idea may be formed from the designations of the chapters into which they are divided. Thus, Dr. Habershon first treats of the "changes of digestion at different periods and conditions of life;" secondly, of "the general sympathy of the stomach in disease;" thirdly, of the "symptoms of the disease of the stomach;" fourthly and fifthly, of the general treatment, and of the remedies for indigestion, and their abuse; next, of dyspepsia of various kinds, as the atonic, congestive, inflammatory, hepatic, rheumatic, and gouty, renal, mechanical, sympathetic, fermentative, duodenal,—these comprised in ten chapters, followed by two concluding ones on ulceration of the stomach and cancerous disease of the organ.

Dr. Fox's arrangement of his subject-matter is comprised under fewer heads. Commencing with an introductory chapter on the nosological classification of dyspepsia; he next treats of "the general symptomatology of the stomach;" thirdly, of the general symptoms and causes of dyspepsia; fourthly, of the disease in its atonic form; fifthly, of the neuroses of the organ; sixthly, of acute gastric catarrh in inflammatory dyspepsia; seventhly, of chronic inflammatory dyspepsia or chronic catarrh of the stomach; lastly, of diagnosis.

The titles of the chapters into which Dr. Chambers's work is divided are altogether different from the preceding. Thus, after three chapters of a discursive kind, comprised in an explanatory introduction; a chapter on the "indigestion of various foods;" the third, on the "habits of social life leading to indigestion;" in the seven which follow he discourses on abdominal pains, vomiting, flatulence, diarrhœa, constipation, and costiveness, nerve disorders connected with indigestion, concluding with a list of cases indexed according to the subjects they profess to illustrate.

Dr. Pavy's arrangement, according to the title of his work, is partly physiological, partly pathological. The following are the headings of the several sections:—"General remarks on digestion and indigestion—Prehension and ingestion—Mastication—Insalivation—Deglutition—Difficulty of swallowing or dysphagia—Gastric digestion—Vomiting—Eructation—Rumination—Perverted appetite—Pain and other morbid sensations connected with the stomach—Flatulence—Heartburn—Water-brash—Acidity—Intestinal digestion—Colic—Enteralgia—Intestinal flatulence—Tympanites—Diarrhœa—Constipation—On artificial digestion as a means of dissolving meat for producing an article of nourishment for the invalid."¹

To do justice to these works, an ample analysis of each would be required, with such comments as parts of them might need, a task which would require more space than we have at our disposal.

All four are highly creditable to their authors, and we have no doubt will be well received by different members of our profession. Dr. Habershon's and Dr. Chambers's will probably be much read, especially that of the latter, by the advanced practitioners; whilst Dr. Fox's will prove of most service to the senior students. The same remark applies to Dr. Pavy's, with this addition, that a special interest is imparted to it from its

¹ This article Dr. Pavy has had made by the action of a digesting fluid—pepsine and hydrochloric acid and water in due proportions. He considers it greatly superior in its nutritive qualities to the extract of meat, prepared by Liebig's process. We hope to hear more of it and of its success.

containing the results of his own researches, especially of that explanatory of the remarkable phenomenon first noticed by John Hunter—the digestion and destruction of the stomach by its secreted fluid—of which a brief account is to be found in the October number of our Review for 1864.

They may be viewed in some measure as complimentary to each other; the one supplying more in detail the information which the others either omit, or pass over briefly. Were we requested to recommend a selection of works on dyspepsia, taking the word in its most comprehensive sense, we do not know that we could do better than name those which are now before us; Dr. Fox's as affording a pretty comprehensive sketch of the different views which have been taken from time to time by the highest authorities in medicine relative to the nature of dyspepsia, and which are taken at present of the many problems on doctrinal questions involved in this most obscure and intricate subject; Dr. Habershon's, as affording a summary of what is best known at the present time of the diseases of the stomach and their treatment, whether functional or organic, whether depending on lesion of the organ itself, or on sympathy through the medium of nerves with other diseased organs; Dr. Chambers's for the clinical teaching it affords by means of a collection of well-selected cases excellently described, and accompanied by a sagacious running commentary; lastly, Dr. Pavy's, for the clear and felicitous manner in which, in connection with the treatment of the disease, he has described the structure and functions of the several organs concerned and their secreted fluids.¹

Each of the authors is an hospital physician, each a teacher in one of the respected medical schools of our metropolis; we have a right to expect from them the most approved and recent information on any disease on which they may undertake to enlighten their brethren. In this instance, we think, we may honestly say, each has performed his part well and will cause no disappointment.

During our perusal of the volumes we marked many passages

¹ The author speaking of pepsine makes the important remark, that what is commonly sold as such is inert. Of good pepsine, he states, ten grains to the ounce of water with its requisite portion of acid (twenty drops of strong hydrochloric) forms a strong digestive solution.

He describes how an artificial digestive liquid may be obtained: the pulp of a fresh stomach—that of the pig—may be scraped off the mucous surface, or the mucous membrane itself cut off in pieces may be infused in cold or tepid water for from twelve to twenty-four hours. The strained infusion is then to be treated with the acid. He points out that the dried mucous membrane answers as well for making the infusion—dried at a moderate degree of warmth, and kept well exposed to the air, or ground to powder.

for comment, but we abstain for the reason already assigned, and hardly knowing where we should stop were we to begin.

Will Dr. Chambers pardon us if we advert to one expression in his excellent work which has not pleased us; it is that relative to Sir Astley Cooper, as having "wasted his life in routine work," and found, when attempting retirement, "it was too late to educate the mind to anything else." Now, surely this distinguished surgeon and original inquirer does not deserve to be so spoken of. Even up to the very end of life, he was zealously occupied in research. We remember well the last time—a year or two before his decease—that we had the pleasure of breakfasting with him, how earnest he was about what then engaged his attention, and the many preparations he brought from an adjoining room (where he had an artist employed) to illustrate his remarks. In the eleventh volume of our Review an obituary notice is to be found of this ornament of our profession, which we would recommend to the perusal of any of our readers who, like Dr. Chambers, do not appreciate Sir Astley Cooper's claims to our gratitude; or, failing that volume, the obituary notice of him in the fourth volume of the 'Abstracts of the Philosophical Transactions.'

REVIEW IX.

On Wakefulness. With an Introductory Chapter on the Physiology of Sleep. By WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D., late Surgeon-General of the United States Army, &c. Philadelphia, 1866. Pp. 93.

IN this little volume, as it is designated by its author, we have a happy example of theory and practice combined; and viewed in this light, we consider it not the least valuable of Dr. Hammond's contributions to medical science.

The contents of the work are distributed in four chapters, each of which we shall briefly notice.

The first, on the "physiology of sleep," he prefaces with some interesting remarks on functional action and waste, on assimilation and reparation with rest, no organ being an exception, more especially the brain, with this qualification, however, that its rest is not absolute, only comparative. After passing in rapid review the various hypotheses which have been advanced to account for sleep, the conclusion he arrives at is that it does not depend on increased but on diminished pressure on