size and price, without any omission from the text except in the case of such controversial matter as is now comparatively unimportant; and with the addition of some notes and cases which the author left in Ms., and ordered to be inserted in the next edition. The plates, we are informed, have been most reluctantly omitted: their insertion would have added considerably to the expense of the work; and it has been thought preferable to sacrifice them to the higher object of usefulness, by bringing the book, at a reduced price, within the reach of a larger number of students. We trust that, in its present compact form, the work will gain that attention from the "rising generation" to which it has so well established its claim.

ART. XII.—*On the Cryptogamous Origin of Malarious and Epidemic Fevers.*

By J. K. MITCHELL, A.M., M.D., Professor of Practical Medicine in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.—*Philadelphia*, 1849. Post 8vo, pp. 138.

In this little work the author sustains the same hypothesis in regard to the Cryptogamic nature of fever poison, as was put forth by Dr. Cowdell in his work on the 'Asiatic Cholera,' reviewed in our Third Number. It is obvious, however, that the author has not been in the least indebted to Dr. Cowdell, either for the idea itself, or for the arguments by which he endeavours to establish it; but that he has for some years been in the habit of propounding the doctrine to his class and to his scientific friends. After a careful study of his production, we feel bound to say that he has made out a very strong case; and that the arguments adduced by Dr. Cowdell and Dr. Mitchell, from the study of independent diseases, mutually tend to confirm each other. We are glad to find from Dr. Mitchell's Preface, that "experiments are in progress, which seem to promise more direct and unquestionable proof of the validity of the hypothesis;" and we trust that they may lead to some satisfactory result. The author advances some very cogent objections to the theory of *ferments*, as the agents in producing what it is now the fashion to call "zymotic" diseases, which we deem worthy of attentive consideration.

ART. XIII.—*The Training Institutions for Nurses, and the Workhouses: an attempt to solve one of the Social Problems of the present day.* By EDWARD SIEVEKING, M.D., Physician to the Northern Dispensary, &c. &c.—*London*, 1849. 8vo, pp. 22.

THERE cannot be two opinions amongst Medical Practitioners, as to the value of well-qualified and faithful attendants for the sick. How often do the discrimination and watchfulness of an intelligent nurse make all the difference between a favorable and a fatal termination of a dangerous malady! How constantly does judicious kindness mitigate unavoidable suffering; and what a source of tranquillity there is to the patient in the very tone and aspect of a gentle and devoted watcher! On the other hand, how frequently is the most grievous injury done by the neglect and presumption of the careless and ignorant; and how much does any manifestation of impatience, carelessness, or irritability, add to the sufferings of the invalid! The wealthy often find it difficult to secure such services as they desire; the poor must be in great measure deprived