known in this country, but his long splint, his knee and leg splints are not so, while they seem as worthy of adoption. But we cannot particularize further. Dr Sayre's book is that of a learned and ingenious surgeon who has spared neither time nor pains to master his subject, and to explain its difficulties to others.

IV.—A DIRECTORY FOR THE DISSECTION OF THE HUMAN BODY. *By* JOHN CLELAND, M.D., F.R.S. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1876.

THE "Directions for Dissection," which appeared at the end of the second volume of Quain's Anatomy, seventh edition, having been omitted from the issue of that work recently published, are now put before us in a separate form (with numerous additions and alterations), under the above title. Originally published by Dr Sharpey for the use of his students, when he lectured on anatomy in Edinburgh, the "Directions for Dissection" were adopted by his successor, Dr Allen Thomson, and have been used in his laboratories for many years. They underwent revision at the hands of Dr Cleland before they appeared in the edition of Quain's Anatomy to which the names of Sharpey, Allen Thomson, and Cleland were attached; but we are by no means sure that such revision gave him the right to ignore his fellow-labourers so completely as he does in the work now before us.

The method of teaching anatomy herein pursued is open to discussion, and has undoubtedly serious defects. A description of the order of dissection is given, and each structure which is to be displayed receives mention, but none of these are described, it being supposed that the student will be able to make out from his dissections the origins and insertions of the muscles, the relations and branches of the arteries, the connections and distribution of the nerves. To a student who is thoroughly acquainted with his subject this will be possible, and will, moreover, be an interesting mode of study; but for the beginner the inevitable result will be the destruction of important structures, and from that will spring disheartenment, which will end in his confining his attention to books and plates, so that the dissecting room will "know him no more."

We believe that it is far better for the student to have, as his companion in dissecting, a book which gives a detailed description of the parts which he sees before him, so that he may be enabled readily to identify them, may compare the

statements of the author with the conditions and arrangements actually found, and thus gain a full and complete knowledge of the essentials of the science of anatomy, instead of merely a general idea of how a dissection is to be made, and what may be seen when it is completed.

As to the order of dissection here given, we cannot think that it is the best that could be devised. The body (after the dissection of the perineum) is first laid upon the face, and the muscles of the back dissected, so that the trapezius, latissimus dorsi, levator anguli scapuli, and other muscles found at the back of the neck, with their accompanying nerves, are divided or removed; on the fifth day the subject is turned, and the dissectors of the head and neck find (perhaps to their dismay) that the posterior boundary and part of the floor of the posterior triangle have been removed, while those of the upper extremities are equally at a loss to find a posterior boundary to the axillary space. But we shall be told the muscles mentioned should not be removed, but simply detached from their vertebral connections; true, but students do constantly remove them, and even if they do not, the muscles are displaced and no longer occupy the proper relative positions. We would suggest as an improvement an arrangement which we introduced some months back, and have found to work admirably; this is as follows:—The perineum is dissected the day the body comes into the rooms; the body is then laid on the back for five days, during which the triangles of the neck, axillary space, axillary artery, &c., receive due attention; at the end of that time the body is turned on the face, and the muscles of the back dissected and removed; this occupies three days, after which the body is again turned, the extremities removed, and the thorax and abdomen dissected.

Dr Cleland has evidently not mastered the details of the method which he advocates, since at p. 69 he describes the dissection of the sub-occipital triangle, and then goes on to say (p. 70), "Should the dissection be completed in the first two days, the dissector may employ the remaining two days, before the subject is *turned on its face*, either in dissecting the brain, if the subject be fresh and it be decided to dissect the brain *in situ*, or in dissecting the orbit." Now the body was already on its face, or the dissector could not get at the *posterior straight muscles of the head*, and in that position he possibly may dissect the brain, and even the orbit, but we cannot think that such a course would be satisfactory, or that Dr Cleland would recommend it.

The introductory chapter on the use of instruments is

worthy of perusal both by students and teachers, for few of the former ever get to handle knife and forceps with that freedom which is essential to good surgery, while the latter are all too remiss in teaching what is after all no important matter.

If we accept the method of teaching anatomy therein set forth as likely to be acceptable and profitable to students, they can have no safer guide than the little work which Dr Cleland presents to their notice, seeing that it is the production of an able anatomist and skilled dissector.

V.—THE GERM THEORY APPLIED TO THE EXPLANATION OF THE PHENOMENA OF DISEASE: THE SPECIFIC FEVERS. By T. MACLAGAN, M.D. Macmillan & Co., London. 1876.

IN his preface to this work, the author states that "one object which he has in view is to rescue the germ theory of disease from what he considers a false and misleading position, and to give to it its true and legitimate standing as a pathological question." The subject discussed is not whether germs may originate *de novo*, but whether the propagation of germs in the system is competent to produce the phenomena of the specific fevers. These are the maladies whose causation the germ theory is believed to be most competent to explain. The author's view of the germ theory, briefly stated, is, "that the specific fevers are due to the presence and propagation in the system of minute organisms having no part or share in its normal economy."

In chap. II. the nature of contagia is discussed, in which it is postulated that for the production of a specific fever the contagium enters the system by the lungs or alimentary mucous surface; that it is there reproduced to an enormous extent, and results in certain changes in the blood. In relapsing and splenic fever only have foreign organisms been found in the blood, no contagium particles having been satisfactorily proven as present in that fluid in other specific fevers, but such have been found in the tissues in cow-pox and sheep-pox. Hence, the author assumes all contagia as particulate—as living organisms, probably albuminous, capable of organic development, always reproducing their kind, preserving their vitality for a considerable period, speedily perishing when freely exposed to the atmosphere, and so minute as to elude the highest powers of the microscope. If, however, the particles in sheep-