should be given. We would suggest that in future editions some distinction should be made, either by the adoption of a different type or otherwise, in such entries as refer to abstracts.

Notwithstanding the defect we have alluded to, and the fact that the "digest" is somewhat limited in its scope, we are of opinion that the excellencies of this book are such that it should have a place on the table of every medical practitioner.

Nitro-Glycerine as a Remedy for Angina Pectoris. By WILLIAM MURRELL, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.

It is only quite recently that nitro-glycerine has been much recommended in cases in which the nitrite of amyl had been found to be of service, the physiological effects of the two drugs being very similar. From this little work, however, we learn that some twenty-five years ago the action of this substance was studied, and its effects described by Mr. A. G. Field, of Brighton. The publication of his experience led others to try it, with the result that his conclusions were challenged. But opinions were so conflicting that some five years ago Dr. Murrell began investigating the subject for himself, and the result is the present work—some of the cases in which have already been published in the *Lancet* (1879).

The physiological effects which he has observed on himself are violent throbbing in the head, acceleration of the pulse, the pulsation sometimes jerking the whole body, drowsiness and languor, followed, if the dose has been considerable, by intense headache. In several cases unconsciousness, lasting for two or three minutes, has occurred, and in others nausea and pain in the epigastric region. From sphygmographic tracings of his own pulse he states that the actions of nitrite of amyl and of nitro-glycerine are similar, both producing marked diastole and accelerating the pulse. But while in the case of nitrite of amyl the effect is obtained in from 15 to 20 seconds after inhalation, and has passed off in a minute and a-half, in the case of nitro-glycerine the full action in the tracing is not obtained until 6 or 7 minutes after the dose has been taken, and it lasts much longer, not altogether disappearing for about half-an-hour. In a case of epispadias, which was extremely insusceptible to the action of the drug, it was noticed that it caused an increased flow of urine, several very interesting observations on this point being

recorded. But Dr. Murrell does not state whether he has observed the same effect in other instances.

The chief portion of the book is taken up with cases showing its influence on true angina pectoris, on pseudo-angina, and on some cases of aortic disease. Details are also given of the cases in which it has failed in his hands. These are all so fully recorded, and sources of error so carefully excluded, that it is impossible to doubt its beneficial effect, of which we have had experience. Dr. Murrell mentions that it is sometimes used in neuralgia, migraine, epilepsy, asthma, hooping-cough, Bright's disease, sea-sickness, and other complaints; but unfortunately he does no more than mention the fact. We should have liked to have heard his opinion of its value in asthma, in which it is said to be of considerable service.

It may be administered in the form of a one per cent alcoholic solution, pills, or chocolate tablets. The latter are most useful for those who require to carry their remedy about with them. There are no definite rules as to dose, one man being able to take 100 minims of the solution, while another suffered severely from half a minim. It is best to begin with half minim doses every 3 or 4 hours, and to go on increasing the dose until physiological effects are produced. After a time tolerance is established, and the patient is able to take more than at first; but it seems to us that Dr. Murrell exhibited the drug much too freely.

We recommend those interested to possess themselves of this work, which, unlike many monographs on new remedies, is not cooked for the sake of proving the infallible powers of its subject.

A Plea for Early Ovariectomy. By G. GRANVILLE BANTOCK, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin., Surgeon to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children. London: H. K. Lewis. 1881.

IN a little book of forty pages, Dr. Bantock discusses the question of operation in ovarian disease in regard to the period in the case when ovariectomy should be practised, and he is altogether on the side of early removal of the diseased organ. The view held by Wells, Peaslee, West, and Thomas, that it is better to wait till the tumour begins to give rise to marked trouble, is strongly condemned, and the author argues that "the following propositions are more consonant with the first principles of scientific surgery, and are justified by