DR. J. PATTERSON CASSELLS.

WE have also to record the death of Dr. Cassells, which took place on the 13th April, in the forty-eighth year of his age, after a somewhat prolonged illness. Dr. Cassells was well known to the readers of this *Journal*, to which he contributed frequently on subjects connected with diseases of the ear. His latest work, the translation of Politzer's work on this subject, was favourably noticed in these pages. Dr. Cassells was a hard working and careful practitioner of the specialty to which he devoted himself; and he did much to bring this specialty before the profession in Glasgow. We believe that he was induced to adopt this department of surgery from the peculiar infirmity from which he suffered for many years, and which finally compelled him to give up practice. This he did about a year ago, and he has since then lived in retirement. Dying at a comparatively early age, he has left a record of much careful and useful work behind him.

REVIEWS.

Clinical Lectures on Mental Diseases. By T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D., &c. London: J. & A. Churchill.

IN Scotland, what is termed the moral treatment of insanity in asylums has been cultivated more thoroughly, and has reached a higher point of perfection, than in any other European country. It is not to be supposed that in practice this moral treatment is the nice adjustment, by skilled attendants and otherwise, of moral and intellectual methods to the mental and physical necessities of the individual patient. The conditions of modern asylums permit but little, if any, of such specialisation as this would imply. To the uninitiated we may explain that what is meant by this satisfactory kind of phrase is the providing of home-like conditions in asylums. The employment of the patients, and this so far as possible in out-door labour, and the removal of all restrictions on their liberty not demanded in their own or other people's interests. The latest triumph in this direction is the doing away with locked doors in many of our asylums; indeed, the way in which this innovation has been hailed by some raises doubts as to the efficiency of the other methods

of treatment in use. It at any rate points to a bias which is certainly not medical, as we commonly understand the word. The common sense of the matter is that much credit is taken for discovering what, but for the defective and unscientific character of the provision we make for the care and cure of the insane, would have been discovered long ago—*i. e.*, that it is not necessary to adjust the surroundings adapted to the care of chronic cases, which form the great bulk of the patients in asylums, to the conditions required for the restraint or safe keeping of the few dangerous cases. The treatment of the acute and curable forms of insanity in institutions such as our present burgh and county asylums, which are essentially homes for the care of idiots, imbeciles, demented, "*et hoc genus omne*," is a wrong done to these patients, while the effect upon the medical officers of asylums is to make of them, in too many cases, mere asylum managers, having their energies almost entirely devoted to administrative duties. Even the Scotch Board of Lunacy, in one of their annual reports, state very clearly that a knowledge of agriculture is of at least as much importance to asylum physicians as a knowledge of medicine; and in the same Blue Book they point with satisfaction to the history and statistics of the Banff District Asylum, where medical direction is at a minimum—the superintendent being a layman, the spade and barrow the most important therapeutical instruments. Dealing with things as they are, and from their point of view, the Board of Lunacy are not far wrong in their contention. We do not desire less of such excellent things as good food, fresh air, and healthy employment, we only desire a little more clinical work; in short, a little more medicine, in the best sense of the word, rather than a little less farming. The hope for the future, as it has been the best help in the past, is that we take a thoroughly medical view of the nature of insanity, and only in this way may we hope to know more about the nature and treatment of those forms of brain disease which have mental disturbance as their only prominent symptom. And we venture to think that this will be only well done as a general thing when we have really hospitals for the actually insane.

These reflections very naturally arise in connection with the novelty of the appearance of a good book on mental disease viewed from the clinical and practical side, and by so distinguished a physician as Dr. Clouston. This book consists of nineteen lectures, and in these lectures 260 cases of every variety of mental disease are described and embodied. We

might take exception to Dr. Clouston's classification, so far as it is an attempt at classification, and particularly to such words as psychalgia, psychoclampsia, psychocoma, which he uses as synonymous with states of mental depression, states of mental exaltation, and states of stupor respectively; but looking at them as merely suggestive helps to the practical consideration of a most obscure subject, rather than as scientific definitions, our objections disappear. We might also object to the occasionally somewhat too dogmatic presentation of opinions on subjects about which there is room for considerable difference of opinion. These lectures are obviously the outcome of large and varied experience and keen insight. They are full of practical hints of great value, both as to the prophylaxis and treatment of mental disease. For the student and general practitioner, it is upon the whole the best book we know of for their purposes. The latter will find in its pages direction and guidance of the most reliable kind for the proper discharge of some of the most delicate and important duties of his profession.

There are a number of plates illustrative of the morbid histology of the brain.

Apart from the practical value of the book to the practitioner, we venture to hope that it will, and it is suggestive enough for the purpose, stimulate the efforts of others in the way of the clinical study of mental disease.

The Diseases of Children: a Hand-book for Practitioners and Students. By ARMAND SEMPLE, B.A., M.B. Cantab, M.R.C.P. London. London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox. 1884.

THERE are always numerous objections ready to hand for works of the class to which Dr. Semple's book belongs. It is more pretentious than the old-fashioned dictionaries associated with the names of Cooper and Hooper; and yet it cannot be called an encyclopedia—a term which might fairly be applied to Dr. Quain's *Dictionary*. It is not the index to a fuller work, as was that useful little book of Dr. Tanner's, and the most ardent admirer could not call it a full and satisfactory treatise. Its sphere of usefulness, if it has any, is a more modern requirement developed by the increased range of subjects upon which students are examined, and the not increased period of curriculum.

But a compendium to be useful to the student should contain the gist of well authenticated and acknowledged