parallel columns. After a lecture on the generalisation of the syphilitic contagium, the rest of the book is devoted to the cutaneous manifestations.

On the whole we may say that, without much pretension to freshness or clearness in exposition, this work will take rank as a fair representation of the subject with which it deals.

Diseases of the Spinal Cord. By BYROM BRAMWELL, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin. Second Edition. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland. 1884.

As fewer changes have been made in this edition than the author at one time contemplated, and as (although every page has been subjected to careful revision) the original plan of the work has as far as possible been adhered to, it is unnecessary after the somewhat exhaustive and lengthy review which we gave of the first edition that we should deal with the present at any great length. We note, however, that in bringing out a second edition, the author has changed his publisher, and we take this opportunity of expressing our admiration of the artistic and excellent manner in which Mr. Pentland has performed his part of the work. We observe also that in a footnote, under the heading of Lateral Sclerosis, attention has been drawn to a remark of ours in which we ventured the opinion that primary lateral sclerosis was not so extremely rare as Dr. Bramwell would have us believe. Dr. Bramwell adheres to his opinion, and we are on the whole inclined to adhere to ours. During the present session, in hospital practice, we have seen at least two examples of the disease, one in an early and one in a very advanced stage. We admit that the disease is not a common one, and perhaps seldom seen in private practice, but sufficiently often observed in hospital to prevent it being classed as an *extremely rare* affection. It gives us great pleasure heartily to recommend this work to the medical profession as a careful exposition of the main facts concerning symptoms, pathology, and diagnosis of affections of the spinal cord.

Elements of Surgical Diagnosis. By A. PEARCE GOULD, M.S., M.B.Lond., F.R.C.S.Eng. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell & Company, Limited. 1884.

THIS small volume forms one of the series of manuals at present being issued for medical students and practitioners.

From a somewhat rapid and superficial glance through the book, Mr. Gould seems to have efficiently effected his object, and if the subject of surgical diagnosis demands a separate and distinct treatise, then this little manual may be warmly commended to both student and practitioner. We confess, however, that this book more than any of the series which have up to the present come before us, impresses us with still graver doubts as to the value of the system adopted. Ostensibly these manuals are for students, and that this object might be carried out to the best advantage, we are told that "the authors will be found to be either examiners or leading teachers in well known medical schools." Now, taking the subject of surgery alone, as being that with which we are immediately interested, there are no fewer than four books upon the subject, and in order that a student may become efficient in this particular branch of his profession, he must consult each. But surely this is a somewhat clumsy method, involving necessarily much needless repetition and trouble. Thus, in studying any particular disease, the symptoms or diagnosis must be sought for in one book, the anatomy of the part in another, the pathology in a third, and the operative treatment in a fourth. The most scientific method of teaching demands that where symptoms are given their explanation as far as possible should be found either in anatomical relations or pathological processes; but how can this possibly be carried out unless each disease is complete in description as to diagnosis, anatomy, pathology, and treatment? We venture to think that the really leading teachers of medical schools would be far from inculcating such disconnected and unscientific principles as the present system portends.

If instead of adopting an analytic process, as this might be termed, a synthetic one were instituted, and out of the four present books a manual of surgery in four volumes were constructed, a really valuable work might be placed in the hands of students and practitioners, and this without in any way detracting from one intended object of these books—their convenience for the pocket.

Transactions of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Vol. II. Edited by W. THOMSON, M.A., F.R.C.S. General Secretary. Dublin: Fannin & Co., Grafton Street. 1884.

WE have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the second volume of the Academy's Transactions.