physician, for amongst its members are many of the most valuable medicines and potent poisons. The authors in their preface claim that the volume "forms a complete chapter of the ever increasing volume of aromatic chemistry," and a glance over its pages is quite sufficient to demonstrate the futility of any but specialists attempting to keep pace with the rapid progress the science of chemistry has made during recent years.

In the introduction Kekulé's theory of the constitution of aromatic bodies is discussed, and some of the mysteries of "Isomerism" explained in accordance therewith. A description of the mode of formation and of the properties of the aromatic hydrocarbons and their derivatives follows. In connection with this we have an historical discussion of their isomeric modifications with an interesting chapter on "orientation" that is, the relative positions of the substituted radicals or elements. This is succeeded by chapters discussing the constitution of benzene, and describing all the more important of its derivatives.

From a technical point of view, nothing so perfect as this volume has ever been produced, but to the physician it must be disappointing that there is not more regarding the properties and practical applications of many of the compounds. This defect renders the volume of much less interest to medical readers.

The Nursing and Care of the Nervous and the Insane. By CHARLES K. MILLS, M.D. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland. 1887.

THIS is one of a series of handbooks on *Practical Lessons in Nursing*, and comprises the substance of a course of lectures delivered at the training schools of two Philadelphia hospitals. The first three chapters refer mainly to matters connected with the nursing of the nervous; the last, which does not appear to contain much that is new or striking, refers to the care of the insane. The writer, differing on this point from the compilers of the Medico-Psychological Association's *Handbook for Instruction of Attendants on the Insane*, does not consider it very necessary that attendants on the sick should have anything but a limited knowledge of anatomy and physiology. If, however, such knowledge is not required, the readers of this book, to all appearance, would need to be possessed of a very considerable knowledge of general medicine

and the physics of electricity. America is the country in which nurses and attendants obtain "diplomas" and become "graduates," but for the corresponding class in this country this book appears to us to be by no means well suited. To the general run of nurses and attendants such collections of technicalities as are to be found in the greater part of the book can hardly fail to have other than little meaning; and the statement that "to some these directions may seem almost too detailed and particular," though applied specially to the chapter on electrical appliances, may almost equally be said of many other parts of the book.

Clinical Lectures on Mental Diseases. By T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P.E. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1887.

THAT a second edition of his work has been called for within four years of the date of publication of the first shows that Dr. Clouston has not been disappointed in venturing to hope that it would supply a want felt alike by the student and the practitioner. From a clinical point of view this is, without doubt, the best treatise that has been published hitherto in this country; and to the general practitioner, as well as to the specialist in psychiatry, it can be heartily recommended. Little alteration has been made in this edition beyond the addition of more recent facts and observations bearing upon the knowledge and treatment of insanity. We are pleased, however, to note a decided improvement upon the first edition in the matter of type and quality of paper.

Medical Galvanism. By HERBERT TIBBITS, M.D. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1887.

THIS essay was delivered by Dr. Tibbits to nurses and masseuses in the form of an introductory lecture at the West-End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, and he has published it by request. Considered as such, Dr. Tibbits is to be congratulated upon the result. The author enters into the consideration of the physical laws bearing upon electricity and the application of these in medicine, in a clear and simple manner, and throughout, the facts are placed before the reader in a very pleasant way. Nurses will find it of great value as an introduction to the study of medical electricity.