gloomy walk of literature. Evidence of this will be found more especially in his earlier chapters and in the preface, in which latter he tells his tale of the would-be suicide who, being of a retiring disposition, changed his mind on reading the directions for treatment!

On the Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Cord, and Nerves. By C. W. SUCKLING, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. With illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

THIS little book is worthy of being well known to all members of the medical profession. In these days, when our knowledge of the signs and symptoms of nervous disease is advancing with very rapid strides, the busy practitioner must often feel that, engaged as he is in general medical and surgical work, he is being somewhat left behind. It is for the help of such that the present volume is designed, and we confess that it caused us some surprise to find how well the author had succeeded in compressing so much valuable information into so small space. In fact, in some places perspicuity is just on the point of being sacrificed to conciseness; but having said this, we have said all we wish to say in the way of criticism. The volume is based on a post-graduate course delivered by the author in Queen's College, Birmingham, and we think he has done well in acceding to the request of his pupils by publishing his lectures in the present form, and thus enlarging the circle of those who are likely to benefit by his labours. The volume will also be of great service to the hospital physician, who, in minutely investigating an obscure nervous case, often feels the want of a handy volume to which he can speedily refer at the bedside. No one will regret adding the book to his library.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Rectum. By ALFRED COOPER, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. Mark's Hospital for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, &c. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

THIS small book purports to be a "concise and thoroughly practical treatise on the diseases of the rectum," but its conciseness is such that we venture to think it contains little more than will be found in any ordinary good text book of surgery. The book contains little that can be called novel, and therefore affords little to criticise. The author, in contrasting the various operations for the removal of internal

hæmorrhoids, speaks highly of the operation of ligature; and in comparing it with the use of the clamp and cautery, observes that "secondary hæmorrhage is more likely to occur than after the use of the ligature; and, as compared with the latter, the results of the operation are not satisfactory." We are not surprised at this conclusion if the author follows out his own practical injunctions of using the cautery iron "heated to a white heat." The cautery used at a *dull red heat* has been found by those who invariably adopt this method of treating piles to be followed by the best results.

The chapter on the Use of Electricity in Rectal Surgery, written by Dr. W. G. Stevenson, contains much useful information.

The book may serve a useful purpose in bringing more pointedly the subject before practitioners; but from a specialist of "twenty years' experience" we confess to a feeling of slight disappointment that something better was not forthcoming, and we can only express the hope that Mr. Cooper may see his way in the future to produce something more worthy of his position and his experience.

The Mineral Waters of Vichy. By DR. C. E. CORMACK.
London: J. & A. Churchill. 1887.

THE thermal springs of Vichy have been long known to the profession as a very valuable means of treatment in diseases of the intestines, liver, and urinary organs. In his book, consisting of 365 pages, Dr. Cormack enters fully, and in a readable manner, into the methods of administering the waters internally and externally, and also gives details of various promenades in the environs. He states "that while almost every nationality is annually represented in a larger proportion, there is one exception to the general rule: the number of English tends to decrease, and is considerably less than it was ten years ago."

It is to be hoped that this work will fulfil the purpose of its author—to induce more of our countrymen to go to Vichy, and assist them to pass their time pleasantly while there.