the subjective phenomena herein discussed troublesome both in relation to diagnosis and treatment.

In his opening paper Mr. Berry makes a much needed protest against the tendency of the younger ophthalmologists to regard the affections of the eye too exclusively from the objective standpoint. Some of them have such confidence in objective methods, that they will order glasses for a case of mixed astigmatism from their examination with the refraction-ophthalmoscope or shadow-test alone, to find, perhaps, that when the patient returns with the glasses, he complains that he cannot use them. "There are," he justly observes, "sources of error which render the result of a determination of this nature uncertain, so that even the most practised observer will be found on trial to make mistakes, not only in estimating the higher, but also the lower degrees of ametropia."

Mr. Berry does not aim at presenting anything original or novel, but rather endeavours to set forth, in plain language, facts regarding subjective phenomena which are either overlooked or receive insufficient exposition, even in the special treatises on diseases of the eye.

We may especially commend to the attention of our readers the chapter on photopsia and chromotopsia, as containing much interesting matter. The occurrence of red vision after cataract extraction was noticed in one case under his own observation, and also in another patient, who had a coloboma of the iris without cataract extraction. The author concurs with Benson and Purtscher in regarding the phenomenon as due to hyperæsthesia of the retina, but adds, "Whether the condition of the retina is favoured by the aphakia and the presence of a coloboma of the iris, or is brought about in some other way is not clear."

These essays are a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject, and are a credit to the British School of Ophthalmology.

Insomnia and other Disorders of Sleep. By HENRY M. LYMAN, M.A., M.D., Professor of Physiology and of Diseases of the Nervous System in Rush Medical College, &c., &c. Chicago. 1885. Pp. 239.

THE first chapter of this volume is a purely physiological one, and is devoted to the nature and cause of sleep. Unfortunately, it sheds no new light on this somewhat obscure department of physiology. The rest of the book treats of dreams, somnambulism, and hypnotism, with a chapter on the remedies for

insomnia. The style of the writer is pleasing, and, as a rule, what he has to say is well said; still, there is a want of originality in the matter, which makes the book of less interest than it would have been had the case been otherwise. The only part likely to be of value to the practitioner is the chapter on the treatment of insomnia, which is pretty full, and generally accurate, though exception might easily be taken to the course of treatment recommended for insomnia due to renal disease and some other conditions, while most will be cautious about employing the doses recommended in some cases. The volume will repay perusal.

A Treatise on the Science and Practice of Midwifery. By W. S. PLAYFAIR, M.D., &c., Professor of Obstetric Medicine in King's College, &c. Two Vols. Sixth Edition. Pp. 411 and 424.

IN the number of this *Journal* for August, 1886, our readers will find a review of the last edition of this work. That now published is almost a literal reprint of the last, so that little more need be said either for or against it. The only noteworthy additions are two plates after H. T. Barbour, one a section of a uterus after death from hæmorrhage during labour, the other a vertical section of the pelvis with *post-partum* uterus.

The fact that this treatise has run through six editions in twelve years speaks well for its acceptance with the professional public, and we still feel disposed to speak of it as one of the best books on midwifery.

The Management of Labour and of the Lying-in Period: a Guide for the Young Practitioner. By HENRY J. LANDIS, A.M., M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, Starling Medical College. London: Charles Griffin & Co. Pp. 334.

THIS volume, as its title page indicates, has been got up for the benefit of those who, having neglected the opportunities for the practical study of obstetrics during their university course, meet with difficulties on the threshold of their public career. Unfortunately, it cannot take the place of practical experience, yet so far as a book can afford assistance, it does so. Every difficulty likely to be met with in the practice of obstetrics is fully and ably dealt with, the directions for operative procedure being clear and without ambiguity. The