

Reviews and Notices of Books.

THE VARIATION OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS UNDER DOMESTICATION. By CHARLES DARWIN, M.A., F.R.S., etc. Authorized edition, with a preface by Prof. Asa Gray. In two volumes, 12mo., with Illustrations. New York: Orange Judd & Co., 245 Broadway.

THE subject treated of in the work before us is always invested with more or less interest to the scientific mind. The author, although professedly wedded to a theory, has done a real service to science in the very collection and discussion of the immense number of facts used to substantiate his views. The theory itself, which binds all these data into a reconcilable, harmonious, and ingenious speculation, rests upon an assumption that the present species of animals and plants are older and stronger marked varieties originated under a natural selection of the sorts best adapted to the circumstances and condition of each place and time,

in a way which may fairly be compared with the development of our domesticated animals and plants under artificial selection and care.

Domestication, according to his idea, is nothing more than the continuation of an experiment which Nature has initiated in the several species ages ago; the changes brought about being more or less intensified by the increased change of climate, variety of food, crossing, correlation, etc., etc. The various arguments which he brings forward are ingenious if not conclusive. The subject of hereditary transmission, as well as the peculiar effects of breeding in and in, and of crossing, are of especial interest to medical men, who cannot fail to obtain many a useful hint regarding anomalies in nature, and the penalties of transgressing her laws.

It is written in a remarkably pleasant and entertaining style for a work upon such an abstruse subject.

LECTURES ON ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY, delivered at the Brooklyn Medical and Surgical Institute. By **LOUIS BAUER**, M.D. M. R. C. S. Eng., Prof. Anatomy and Clinical Surgery, Licentiate of the N. Y. State Medical Society, Member of N. Y. Pathological Society, etc., etc. Second Edition, revised and augmented, with 84 illustrations. New York: William Wood & Co. 1868. 8vo. pp. 836.

THE second edition of Dr. Bauer's published lectures is a marked improvement over the first, in that the various subjects are not only treated of more in extenso, but new ones have been added. Among the latter, that of hip-joint disease may be particularly mentioned. The attention which he pays to the pathological anatomy of the different affections is a very commendable feature of the work, and is the only one upon which sound views of treatment can be based. Although some of his views in regard to the causes of spinal and joint diseases are those not generally held by authorities, still his right to differ from their dicta is as well supported as the relation of a few typical cases will admit. In the treatment of the various deformities he is eminently rational, and when convinced of the correctness of his diagnosis as to the precise cause of the various deformities, he is as ready to use the knife for the correction of some as to advise mechanical appliances for others.

The summing up of his views in regard to diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment, in the form of axioms, is a very useful feature of the work, and effectually lightens that ambiguity of expression through various parts of the work which is pardonable in one who has not yet thoroughly emancipated himself from the German idiom.

In regard to the treatment of hip disease and the use of apparatus, we are glad to see but very little space devoted to the discussion of the claims of the different inventors of the hip splints—a subject upon which the profession have become heartily tired long ago.

The work, though small, contains much that is of real value, both in a pathological and therapeutical point of view, and is deserving the careful study of the practical man.