ever, who wishes to be well informed on this special branch of his profession, it will be found both interesting and instructive. In particular, we know of no manual in which the subject of uterine displacements is so fully discussed, and the treatment of them so clearly laid down.

The Extra Pharmacopæia of Unofficial Drugs. By W. Martindale, F.C.S., and W. Wynn Westcott, M.B.Lond. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.

That the third edition of this invaluable consulting table "companion" should be called for in less than twelve months from the appearance of the first, is ample testimony to the value of the work and evidence of the need there was for some such publication. It is now too late in the day to criticise this book in detail, or to point out specifically its many merits; we content ourselves with commending it strongly to our readers. The following extract will indicate its nature and scope; it is from the "supplement" to the book, and its length may be readily justified by its great interest at the present time:

"Cocaine and its Salts.—Although the mydriatic effects of cocaine and cocainæ hydrochloras are noted in the 'extra pharmacopæia,' the subsequent uses to which these drugs have been put since the publication of the last edition have brought them more prominently into notice than was then considered probable. I had overlooked the curious property cocaine possesses of producing local anaesthesia, although this was even noted by the discoverer of the alkaloid—Niemann, who, so far back as 1860, wrote:—'It produces temporary insensibility on the part of the tongue with which it comes in contact.' (Watt's Dictionary, i, 1059, ex Ann. Ch. Pharm. cxiv, 215.) This interesting fact seems to have lain dormant for 24 years, until a few months back, when Herr Koller, a medical student in Vienna, was led to test the local anaesthetic action of the hydrochlorate of the alkaloid, on account of the effect he had witnessed when cocaine in solution was pencilled upon the pharynx to render it less susceptible in laryngoscopic examination. A vial of the solution was given by Herr Koller to Dr. Brettaufer, of Trieste, who, on 15th Sept. last, demonstrated its properties at the meeting of the Ophthalmological Congress in Heidelberg. Several experiments were made with the two per cent solution, which showed that when two drops of the liquid were placed upon the surface of the normal cornea, and the application repeated after an interval of ten minutes, at
the end of ten minutes more the sensibility of the cornea was so far diminished that it could be pressed with a probe; the cornea and the surface of the eyeball and eyelids adjoining could be rubbed; a speculum could be inserted and the lids widely separated, and the conjunctiva could even be seized with fixation forceps, and the eye moved in various directions without causing the patient notable discomfort.

"Since then many trials of it have been made, both here and in America, and it has been shown that its action is not confined to the region of the eye and throat,—the ear, mouth, tongue, pharynx, nose, larynx, trachea, urethra, rectum, and, in fact, the whole mucous membrane, as well as cut surfaces and open sores, are affected by it; but solutions of it are little absorbed by the skin, even a chloroform solution is scarcely at all absorbed; although injected hypodermically the aqueous solutions of its salts deaden sensibility around the puncture, so that the deep prick of a pin is not felt—the surrounding part is reddened, but after thirty minutes it resumes its normal conditions.

"The solutions have been employed topically in excision of the tonsils, cauterising the terminal bone of the nose, painting chancre previous to the application of nitric acid or other caustics, opening abscesses, removing polypi, and many cases of iridectomy and operation for cataract. For the eye an aqueous solution of the hydrochlorate of cocaine of 2 to 4 per cent is generally used, and a 4 to 20 per cent for other purposes; of the weaker solutions it is necessary to repeat the application three or four times, at intervals of three to five minutes. At a discussion on anaesthetics at the Medical Society, on the 25th Nov., a speaker advocated the use of the strongest solution. No injurious effects, either local or constitutional, seem to follow its use. Its action commences in three minutes, increases from ten to twenty minutes, and mostly disappears within half an hour. On the eye it paralyses the accommodation, which passes off sooner than the dilatation of the pupil, and even this does not at longest last more than twelve hours. The sensitiveness of the iris is less affected than that of the surface of the eye.

"References.—Eleven successful cases, including three of operation for cataract, one double iridectomy, one removal of tumour from lid, and three for convergent strabismus. In cases of intolerance of light it acts like magic.—C. Bader, Lancet, 22nd Nov., 1884, p. 911.

"In papillomata of larynx, interior painted with 20 per cent solution of hydrochlorate of cocaine once, in five minutes
was able to introduce the forceps four times and remove large portions of tumours without patient experiencing any pain or subsequent shock.—F. Semon, *Lancet*, 22nd Nov., 1884, p. 912.

“Physiological effects on the eye.—Lucien Howe, *Lancet*, 22nd Nov., 1884, p. 911.

“Two cases of operation on cervix uteri, the cervical canal, and adjacent parts, three times painted with 4 per cent solution at intervals of two or three minutes, little or no pain felt, till in one case towards end of prolonged operation.—W. M. Polk, *Med. Rec.* (N.Y.), 1st Nov., 1884, p. 481.

“Seven eye cases under its influence.—W. O. Moore, *Med. Rec.* (N.Y.), 8th Nov., p. 510.

“Use in the nasal cavity, cotton wool soaked in 2 per cent solution applied at the end of a probe in over forty cases, including hypertrophy of the nasal mucous membrane (twenty-seven cases cauterised), acute coryza, nasal polypus, and hay fever, all having marked swelling of the nasal mucous membrane, both from chronic and acute causes; in every case there was complete subsidence of the turgescence of the membrane, and the sinuses were emptied of their blood.—F. H. Bosworth, *Med. Rec.* (N.Y.), 15th Nov., p. 533.

“As regards the toxic properties of cocaine, its effects appear to be mild and not cumulative. It causes cessation of respiration, small doses have an exhilarating effect on the nerve-centres and other parts of the nervous system. In a case of attempted suicide, a dose of 1·5 grammes (23 grains) seemed to have no seriously injurious effect.

“Cocaine, as before stated, was first isolated by Niemann in 1860. From analysis he gave it the formula of C₁₇H₂₁NO₄ (old notation), but Lossen, in 1862, assigned it the now accepted formula of C₁₇H₂₁NO₄ (new notation). It has a bitterish taste, and crystallises in shining monoclinic prisms. It requires 704 parts of water to dissolve it, it is more soluble in alcohol, freely so in chloroform and ether, and 1 in 20 respectively of melted vaseline and castor oil. The two last solutions have proved serviceable in eye cases. Manufacturers inform us coca leaves yield from 0·02 to 0·2 per cent. The leaves also contain hygrin (a volatile principle) with ecgonine, coca-tannin, and a peculiar wax. Ecgonine (together with benzoic acid and methyl-alcohol) may also be obtained as a derivative from cocaine when the latter is heated with strong hydrochloric acid.

“Coca! H y d r o c h l o r a s.—This salt has been most used; it appears to be a white amorphous powder, which, in reality, consists of slender white needles, usually having a peculiar
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odour, more marked than that of the alkaloid itself, and its action on the tongue and mucous surfaces is more intense than that of the latter. It is soluble 1 in 4 of water, and freely soluble in spirit. It is an antiseptic, a 5 per cent aqueous solution delays the putrefactive changes in an extract of meat.

"Cocainæ Citras is in deliquescent small white crystals. This has been recommended for the use of dentists, as it can be kneaded into pills, which, after being wrapped in cotton wool, moistened, and placed in the cavity of a carious tooth, anaesthetises the sensitive pulp, and renders filling and extraction almost painless. A strong solution of the pure alkaloid in oil of cloves has also been used similarly.

"Cocainæ Salicylas is recommended for the use of oculists, as it forms a solution which keeps well.

"Dose of Cocaine and its Salts—\( \frac{1}{32} \) to 1\( \frac{1}{2} \) grains.

"Other Preparations of Coca.—Extractum Cocœ is imported from South America. Prepared from the green leaves. Dose—5 to 15 grains, in pills or pastils.

"As coca leaves lose much of their virtue by keeping, this and the next following are the best pharmaceutical preparations of it.

"Pastillus Cocœ Extracti.—2\( \frac{1}{2} \) grains of the extract in each. Dose—One every two or three hours.

"A Wine of Coca, containing about 1 in 30—dose, a wine-glassful—and a liquid extract, and an elixir, about 1 in 6—dose, 1 to 4 drachms—are prepared. Extractum Erythroxyli Fluidum, U.S.—Dose, \( \frac{1}{2} \) to 2 drachms; 1 = 1 part of leaves, is about six times stronger than the above mentioned liquid extract, which is a French nostrum.

"The uses of the coca leaf by the native Indians of Bolivia and Peru have been described by many travellers who have seen it chewed. It is used, in conjunction with the ashes of a plant or with lime, as a remedy for, or preventive against, the effects of extraordinary physical exertion, to relieve the difficulty of respiration in ascending mountains, and to appease hunger, thirst, and fatigue.

"The discovery of the alkaloid cocaine led to the belief that it possessed properties allied to caffeine, but this has not been confirmed. As a medicine, coca has been more used in France and America than in England. In Vienna, cocaine has been recommended for use internally in cases of great exhaustion, such as loss of blood, sunstroke, or diarrhœa, also by mouth or hypodermically as a cure for morphia and alcohol craving. Morphia and cocaine appear to be mutually antagonistic. Cocaine has been used in some cases of melancholia and in-
somnia; it also possesses aphrodisiac properties. It was likewise found to lessen the desire for sleep and feeling of hunger, and to be a stimulant which quickly increases and sustains, in a harmless manner, the physical powers of the body, such as are required in long marches, mountain ascents, &c., in dose of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

"Cocaine is a stomachic, useful after excess either in eating or drinking; it also improves the condition of the stomach in atonic indigestion and nervous affections of this organ, as well as in phthisis and cachectic cases, especially those arising from the use of mercury.

"A sensational telegram from Vienna appeared in the Standard of 21st Nov. last, stating the effects of cocaine as demonstrated before some scientific men,—one operation on an old polypus being performed with complete success in five minutes. The great demand for coca and cocaine has caused a corresponding advance in price, although here it has not reached so high a price as in New York, where the hydrochlorate of cocaine used at Dr. Merrill's College Clinic, Albany, cost equal to 3s. 6d. per grain English. Holders of stock of either are now reaping the profits of an 'unearned increment,' but in a short time a plentiful supply of the drug will arrive.

"According to a writer in the British Journal of Dental Science, 1st Nov., p. 1030, tincture of cannabis indica possesses a somewhat similar local anesthetic action. Previous to extraction he applies it diluted three to five times with water to the cavities of the teeth, if any, and about the gums, on cotton wool; it is said to be effectual and devoid of the possibility of harm."

Intestinal Obstruction, with an Appendix on the Action of Remedies. By Hugh Owen Thomas, M.R.C.S. Abdominal Hernia. By Rushton Parker, B.S., F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery in University College, Liverpool. London: H. K. Lewis. 1883.

Mr. Thomas' style of writing is, as will be seen from the following note "To the Reader," very faulty:—

"Since my first contribution to the literature of the subject-matter of this volume, seven years have elapsed, and as the two previous editions have been exhausted, this, combined with my having noticed that my teaching has already influenced practice in the treatment of intestinal lesions, induced me to rewrite and remodel the present editions. In hopes that I might succeed in further demonstrating the need of reform,