REVIEWS OF
BRITISH AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

A Text-Book of the Diseases of Women. By J. CLARENCE WEBSTER, M.D., F.R.C.P.Ed. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co.

In his text-book of the diseases of women, Professor Clarence Webster presents a clear and comprehensive view of modern gynaecology in all its branches. The manner in which the contents are arranged will commend itself to British readers. A full description is given of the pelvic anatomy, the structure of the pelvic floor being well explained. The value of the levatores ani as strengthening agents to the pelvic floor is here shown to be small as compared with the action of the pelvic fascia, as is undoubtedly the case. After reading the correction of the common misconception as to the course of the fibres of the levator muscles, one is surprised to see Fig. 77 being used, the fibres there being represented as running toward the middle line. The increasingly important subject of the bacteriology of the genital tract is dealt with in a separate chapter, the gonococcus receiving the pre-eminent position to which its havoc entitles it. For making gynaecological examinations the author recommends the invariable use of rubber gloves, which will meet with the general approval of those who have given them a trial. The details of preparing patients for operation is minutely gone into, and if all the precautions described are carried out, the operator might well be excused for feeling aggrieved if his patient failed to keep aseptic. The use of clove oil is advocated in the preparation of the hands, the process being as follows: The hands are scrubbed with soap and hot water for five minutes, dried and immersed in alcohol for one minute, and when dry they are bathed in clove oil for five minutes, and the oil then washed off in alcohol. Sterilised talc powder is then applied, and dry rubber gloves put on. Under surgical technique emphasis is placed on the importance of preserving the peritoneum from damage which may lead to subsequent adhesions. When drainage is required, the author prefers the vaginal route, and uses chinosol gauze in preference to iodoform. In dealing with affections of the vagina and vulva, the value of formalin as an application and in the douche is noted. It acts very satisfactorily in vulvitis, and might with advantage be used in this country more than it is. The following prescription is recommended for application in vulvitis:—R Formalin, 10–25 minims; glycerini, 6 oz.; water, 14 oz. In the operative treatment of chronic ovaritis conservative measures are recommended. In 5 per cent., however, of the author's cases of resection of the ovary, he has required to operate again in a year to remove the rest of the ovary. The method of internal shortening of the round
ligaments by stitching them to the posterior wall of the uterus, as devised by the author, is recommended as the most applicable to the majority of cases of backward displacement requiring operation. An interesting illustration is given of a uterus with suspensory band attached, the uterus having again become retroverted after ventro-suspension. The chance of this state of matters occurring would make one prefer the shortening of the round ligaments to ventro-suspension as the operation for retroversion. The subject of ectopic gestation is treated in the able fashion which is to be expected from one whose researches on that subject are so well and widely known. The author also describes and illustrates his case of ovarian gestation. The volume throughout maintains a high standard of excellence. In reading it one feels that the writer is always speaking from his own experience and from personal observation. The illustrations are profuse and, on the whole, well chosen, and one can have no hesitation in recommending the book as a thoroughly reliable guide to the subject, and one which is bound to take a leading place among the treatises on gynaecology which have appeared with such frequency of late years.

A System of Medicine. Edited by Thomas Clifford Allbutt and Humphry Davy Rolleston. Vol. ii. Part 1. London: Macmillan & Co. Ltd.

The editors are to be congratulated on the step they have taken in dividing the second volume of the "System" into two parts.

The scope of the various subjects treated in the original volume, together with the large amount of new matter requiring to be introduced into many of the articles, and the wise determination to consolidate the subjects of tropical diseases and animal parasites into one volume, fully justify the subdivision referred to.

Part 1 of Volume ii., which is before us, opens with an admirable article by Professor James Ritchie on the general pathology of infection, which occupies two hundred pages, and deserves the highest praise for the clear and complete manner in which the present state of knowledge in regard to the pathology of infection is reviewed.

Another new article is that by Mr. Foulerton on streptothrix infections, while Dr. McVail writes upon vaccination as a branch of preventive medicine in place of the late Mr. Ernest Hart.

The transference of syphilis from its former position under diseases of "uncertain bacteriology" was inevitable in view of recent discoveries in regard to its etiology, and it is now included amongst those the bacteriology of which is held to be established.

These and other changes of like character indicate that this edition, while maintaining the features which proved so popular on the first appearance of the "System," has been edited with judgment and due consideration of the progress of scientific research.

A word of special praise must be said with regard to Dr. Oliver's article upon "Metallic and Other Poisons." It is true that he deals more particularly with the trade or occupational aspects of poisoning, but this is exactly what in our opinion the majority of readers of the "System" will find most useful. Information in regard to cases of acute
poisoning occurring in general practice can be obtained from any work on forensic medicine, but there are few books which give an accurate account of industrial poisoning, and certainly there is no authority in this country with such an extensive experience on the subject as Dr. Oliver.

The Practice of Obstetrics by American Authors. By Reuben Peterson. London: Henry Kimpton.

As might be expected in a work compiled by a number of different contributors, there is considerable inequality in the merit of the various sections of which it is composed, but on the whole the editor is to be congratulated on the production of an extremely full and up-to-date text-book, which must prove useful to medical practitioners from a reference aspect.

The initial chapters on the physiology and development of the ovum discuss this debatable subject with great fulness; the author here maintains that menstruation indicates ovulation without fertilisation, and entirely ignores the more freely accepted views of Pfüger. The physiology and diagnosis of pregnancy is very practically considered; it seems, however, that pulsation in the fornix vaginae as a sign of early gestation does not get the prominence it deserves. The chapters on the pathology of pregnancy and of the foetus are most excellent. The designation of hydatid mole as syncytioma benignum is novel and to the point. Extra-uterine pregnancy commands a section to itself. Here the author does not seem to sufficiently differentiate between complete and threatened tubal abortion, the latter probably being the commonest course of ectopic pregnancy. Uterine contractions are not mentioned as a valuable point of differential diagnosis between intra- and extra-uterine pregnancies. The theories given for explaining precipitate labour are weak compared with that of a painless labour, which it doubtless is. The delivery of the after-coming head in a breech case occiput first as recommended, is surely unscientific at any time. The strong approval of axis-traction forceps is greatly to be commended. That they cause compression of the fetal head is difficult to understand; indeed, the absence of compression is one of the strongest advantages of the instrument. Exception might also be taken to the transverse position of the head being a contra-indication to forceps, as from the experience of many reliable obstetricians it has been shown to be safer to the child than turning. The section on the management of the new-born is most practical and valuable. The illustrations are quite a feature of the work. The greatest exception to the work is its unwieldy size, which might be rectified with advantage in future editions by its publication in two volumes.

Atlas of Applied (Topographical) Human Anatomy. By Dr. Karl von Bardeleben and Prof. Heinr. Haeckel. English Adaptation from the German by J. Howell Evans, F.R.C.S. London: Rebman Ltd.

The author expresses the hope that this atlas will serve as a means of revision among students, as a valuable reference of applied anatomy to
the practitioner, and as a means of quickening the weakening memories of the surgeon!

In the selection of the plates special attention has been directed to those regions which have, of recent years, become of increased interest to the physician and surgeon. The book, while not intended to replace the ordinary text-book of anatomy, is greatly impaired as a work of reference because of the absence of an index. The plates, which are partly lithographs and partly wood blocks, are by no means so artistically turned out as in some other atlases which have been recently published, but they are good enough for the purpose, and many of them illustrate views of the various regions and structures of the body from an original standpoint. Some of the plates are apparently inaccurate; for example, Fig. 4, which illustrates the lateral aspect of the cerebral hemisphere, depicts the motor areas as being spread over both ascending convolutions; Fig. 61, which depicts a complete dissection of the deeper layers on the anterior aspect of the neck, figures the left internal jugular vein as running downwards parallel with the carotid artery instead of inclining towards the middle line at its lower part; and the same mistake is made in Fig. 113, which illustrates the structures entering the upper aperture of the thorax; Fig. 125, which is intended to illustrate the position of the abdominal viscera as seen from behind—after Luschka—shows the kidneys to lie outside the tips of the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae.

The translator has done his work well, considering the difficulty of giving an accurate English version of an anatomical work written in German, but one is surprised to find places where the English is faulty and where the anatomy is incorrect. The following sentence from the page facing Fig. 128 is an illustration of such a departure: “The small omentum, in the removal of the stomach, should not be cut at too great a distance from the lower curvature, because the branch of the left vagus distributed to the stomach and the liver would be injured and the function of the liver be damaged.”

Among the plates deserving special commendation are those illustrating the anatomy of the gall bladder and bile ducts in their relation to the duodenum and pancreas; the cæcum and appendix and the sigmoid colon; the anatomy of the male perineum, one of these giving an excellent illustration of the recto-urethral muscle; the anatomy of hernia and of joints, while throughout the whole volume most useful illustrations of the regional distributions of the lymphatic glands. While we have ventured to draw attention to certain minor defects in this atlas, we have no hesitation in expressing the view that it will be found to be of inestimable value to the practitioner.

The Treatment and Prophylaxis of Syphilis. By Alfred Fournier, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. English Translation of the Second Edition by C. F. Marshall, F.R.C.S., formerly Resident Medical Officer to the London Lock Hospital. London: Rebman Ltd.

The translator draws attention to the fact that up to the present time only one of Professor Fournier’s works has been translated into English,
The author has never seen any appreciable difference between the syphilis derived from a chancre and that derived from a secondary lesion. It is a matter of common observation, that tertiary lesions of the most severe nature often follow the smallest, least indurated, most benign and most insignificant chancre. This is because the chancre only represents the resistance of the organism at the time of infection; it is no criterion of what the resistance will be in the future. Syphilis which begins well may end badly. Out of seventy-eight cases of cerebral syphilis observed by the author, seven followed a secondary period with severe manifestations, while seventy-one were preceded by benign secondary symptoms. Nine times out of ten, tertiary lesions ensued from syphilis which was originally benign. It is therefore necessary to treat syphilis from the outset, however benign it may appear to be.

The abortive treatment of syphilis is discussed at considerable length, and the conclusion is arrived at, that while there is little or no hope of preventing constitutional infection by the cauterisation or excision of the primary lesion, one is justified in doing so when the conditions are favourable.

With regard to the general treatment of syphilis, stress is laid upon the view that the whole treatment of syphilis is not contained in the administration of mercury and iodides, but on what he calls auxiliary medication, intended to modify the conditions of health which may coexist with syphilis, and on hygiene. The habits, diet, and mode of life require careful supervision.

Of anti-syphilitic remedies proper there are only two—mercury and iodides. The public of to-day bears malice against mercury in remembrance of the past. Mercury exerts an undoubted preventive action on the manifestations of the secondary period, and also on those of the tertiary period. Of a hundred cases of cerebral syphilis, only five had been efficiently treated with mercury. The choice of the method of administering mercury cannot be determined in a general or abstract
manner; it is subject to the necessities of practice, to special circumstances, and to individual considerations. Everything is subordinate to the indications of the particular case, and these indications must always be obeyed.

Owing to its powerful therapeutic effect, inunction is preferable to all other methods in severe cases, in cases which do not yield to mercury given in other ways, and in syphilis occurring in young subjects. The method of intramuscular injection, while occasionally useful, is the least practical of all for the routine treatment of syphilis.

The author regards the buccal or stomachic method as the best routine method. With regard to the dose, he believes that mercury is not administered in sufficient amount. There is an actual fear of it not only on the part of the patient, but often on the part of the physician. The dose must be proportioned to the manifestations of the disease and to the idiosyncrasies of the patient. The dose must be determined in each case by observation, gradually increasing it until the gums are slightly touched, and then settling down to an amount just short of this.

The rôle of iodide of potassium is fully considered. According to the author, it was Wallace of Dublin who, in 1836, first published, in the *Lancet*, the results which he had obtained with the new remedy. It was then taken up by Ricord, who recognised its particular application to the lesions of the tertiary period.

Fournier is an enthusiast in regard to iodide. "Without the least exaggeration it may be called a marvellous remedy, sometimes working miracles." Iodide exerts to the full its anti-syphilitic action even when it has not been preceded by mercurial treatment. It is therefore by itself a powerful anti-syphilitic, and produces its beneficial results without injury to the general health. Fournier gives a warning against the popular view that when a given dose of iodide causes symptoms of idiosyncrasy it should be doubled or trebled, inasmuch as grave complications such as oedema of the glottis may rapidly supervene. He estimates the dose for an adult man of good constitution and average strength as 45 grs. in the twenty-four hours, and for an adult woman in the same condition 30 grs., but he begins with smaller doses—30 grs. for a man and 15 for a woman.

Chapter xxi. deals with what he calls the mixed treatment, mercury and iodides being combined, which is especially beneficial in the numerous lesions which occupy the borderland between the secondary and tertiary periods, and especially in cases of cerebral syphilis. Fournier believes that the separate administration of the two drugs is more convenient in practice and much more active.

At the last interview, when our patients pose the inevitable and perilous question, "Am I cured?" we should never neglect to express our undisguised opinion, and give the following salutary and essential advice:

"Yes, I believe you are cured; but whatever may occur in the future, whatever disorder may affect your health, remember your former complaint. Never neglect to inform your physician of your special antecedents. Tell him plainly, tell him ten times rather than once, that you have had syphilis. It is quite possible that this information
may be of no value to him, but it is not impossible that circumstances may occur in which this information may be of capital importance both to him and to you, and on your confession of your antecedents may depend your chance of cure, or even your life."

A Course of Lectures to Midwives and Maternity Nurses. By W. E. Fothergill, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., Lecturer in Obstetrics, Victoria University of Manchester. Edinburgh: William Green & Sons.

This book is divided into two parts. The first deals with normal pregnancy and labour. The opening lecture on the chief duty of midwives and maternity nurses refers to the great importance of protecting their patients from the dangers of puerperal fever. The mechanism of labour in vertex presentations is very clearly written, and we think the author is right in omitting any detailed description of the mechanism in abnormal cases. The second portion of the lectures refers to the subject of securing medical assistance in all conditions which endanger the patient's health or life. Thus the signs and symptoms which give warning of such conditions as deformed pelvis are fully described. In the chapter dealing with the hæmorrhages before and after labour, special reference is made to the treatment of post-partum hæmorrhage by compression of the aorta, and a very good diagram makes clear to the nurse the arterial supply of the uterus. All the illustrations are good, but we think it is unnecessary in a text-book for midwives to include diagrams of frozen sections made in the different stages of labour. The book will be found a very reliable guide to maternity nurses, especially for those who purpose taking the diploma of the Central Midwives' Board.

Cancer of the Womb: its Symptoms, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment. By Frederick John M'Cann, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.S.

London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton.

This book forms one of the most important volumes of "The Oxford Medical Publications." It gives a concise account of the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer of the uterus. Each type of cancer as it occurs in the womb is illustrated by one or more cases from the author's own clinical experience. He does not think that lacerations of the cervix are of great etiological importance. In the chapter on "Spreading of Uterine Cancer," Dr. M'Cann rightly points out that mobility of the uterus does not always mean absence of involvement of the parametrium, or that interference with its mobility is a certain test of parametric invasion with cancer. Reference is made to the combination of myoma and carcinoma. The author emphasises the great responsibility practitioners incur in allowing any opportunity to pass of diagnosing cases in the early stage, as it is to the general practitioner that we must look for promptness in getting suitable cases surgically treated. Dr. M'Cann finds the uterine sound of use in diagnosing cancer of the body of the uterus, as by it elevations and
depressions of varying consistence may be felt, and its withdrawal produces an abnormal amount of haemorrhage. He also recommends that scrapings for diagnostic purposes should, if possible, be obtained by the use of the curette without preliminary dilatation. When the cervix requires wide dilatation, the author prefers incision through the anterior uterine wall in the middle line, as he believes that large dilators do not dilate but lacerate uterine tissue. He does not approve of scraping the diseased cervix previous to the operation of vaginal hysterectomy, as this may favour the spread of septic infection, and, perhaps, disseminate the disease. The importance of protecting the ureters is referred to. This he does by freeing the bladder from its lateral attachments before dividing the tissues which unite it to the cervix. Statistics of results of operative treatment are given chiefly from continental sources. With regard to the "extended abdominal operation," as carried out by Wertheim, the author believes that the time has not yet arrived for giving a final verdict, but he is not in favour of the extensive "dissection operations" advocated by some authorities. As he correctly points out, the value of Wertheim's operation is not in its extensive glandular dissection, but in free removal of the parametrium and upper part of the vagina. In inoperable cases opium is given as still the best drug to relieve pain. The chapter on "Deciduoma Malignum" is well written, and includes a description of a most interesting case occurring eighteen months after the menopause. When referring to the after-treatment of operations, the author expresses his approval of rapidity in operating, as every minute after an hour of anaesthesia is of importance. When drainage is employed, he thinks it is a mistake to draw off the fluid, which is better left in the abdomen. This will not receive universal acceptance, although we agree with him that washing out the abdomen may spread infection rather than remove it, and that the pelvic cavity is best cleaned by gauze sponges. Dr. M'Cann is a firm believer in giving solid food at the earliest possible date after operation, as the bowels then act naturally in four or five days. He further believes that the amount of actual nutriment derived from so-called nutrient enemata is nil, but he strongly recommends the use of saline injections after abdominal operations. The work is illustrated throughout by original photographic plates, most of them showing the naked-eye and microscopic appearances very clearly. The book is one of great merit. It will be read with interest both by the specialist and general practitioner as an authoritative exposition of the important subject with which it deals.

A Text-Book of Genito-Urinary Diseases. By Dr. Leopold Casper. Translated and edited, with additions, by C. W. Bonney, M.D. London: Rebman Ltd.

Dr. Leopold Casper, Professor in the University of Berlin, is a recognised authority upon genito-urinary diseases, and it is a matter of congratulation that his views have been made accessible to English-speaking surgeons by the translation of his text-book upon this subject by Dr. C. W. Bonney. The translation has a foreword from the author.
of the work, in which he says Sir Henry Thompson first led him into this realm of genito-urinary diseases, and he "trusts that Sir Henry's teaching fell upon fertile soil." We have no hesitation in affirming that it did, as Dr. Casper's book is excellent both from the scientific and practical side. It is a most suggestive work, full of originality and luminous in its teaching. We have read it from cover to cover with much pleasure and profit, and believe that it is thoroughly sound and an admirable guide for the practical surgeon. The author writes in the happiest manner, simply and without padding. The subject is brought before the reader in a most attractive form, and is wholly up to date, while the illustrations and plates are clear and appropriate to the text. Debatable points are fairly stated; and although the author does not hesitate to give his opinions quite definitely, yet he does so with such moderation that even those who may disagree with them must admit the fairness of his conclusions. Dr. Casper has been a pioneer in some, and an early follower in others, of the more recent advances in genito-urinary surgery, and throughout his book he gives ample evidence of the important part recent clinical methods have had in placing this branch of surgery upon a sure scientific basis for practical work. These new methods are clearly described, and their uses fully shown. The author draws from a long and wide experience, and his opinion is of much value. Those who are unfamiliar with, or who disbelieve in, urethroscopy, cystoscopy, or ureteral catheterisation, would do well to read this work, in which, in a most convincing manner, their value is shown.

The space, less than a hundred pages, devoted to diseases of the kidneys, is not relatively proportionate to the importance and scope of the subject; but, as far as the author goes, this section is accurate and up to date. Some time, we trust, he will incorporate his experience in a larger work. We observe there is no reference to decapsulation of the kidney in the treatment of nephritic conditions, as advised by Edebohls, but very probably that surgeon's papers have not convinced Dr. Casper that the method is deserving of notice. Functional disturbances of the sexual organs are treated in a practical and concise way, and this part of the work well repays perusal. The views are not new, but the subject is put before us in a more acceptable form than is frequently the case.

Dr. Bonney has placed a most readable book before the profession, and deserves much credit for his share in the work, which has been carried out in intimate association with Professor Casper.

Atlas and Text-book of Human Anatomy. By Dr. Sobotta. Edited by J. Platfair M'Murrich, M.D. Vol. II. London: W. B. Saunders & Co.

The second volume of Sobotta's Anatomy maintains the high standard of excellence which was reached in the first volume, a review of which appeared in a previous number of this Journal. The mode of reproduction of the dissections is similar to that in the first volume, and the autotypes, multicoloured lithography and three-coloured process,
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give excellent results; indeed, the accuracy and clearness of the 214 illustrations could not easily be surpassed. The letterpress is ample, and brings before us in a readily understood manner what the illustrations so graphically depict. We note that the author retains the older description of the colon and rectum, but the more recent work upon the valvular folds of the rectum are described and figured. The pages and illustrations devoted to the peritoneum bring that somewhat difficult subject interestingly and lucidly before the student. With so much to praise in this work, it may seem captious to criticise minor errors, but with more care the incorrect references to pages and illustrations could have been avoided, and the figures 515 and 516 would not have been printed upside down. It is a pleasure to bring this work favourably before the profession, as we believe it to be thoroughly reliable and excellently adapted for the needs of the practitioner and student.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

It is not necessary to do more than chronicle the appearance of the fifth edition of Da Costa’s Modern Surgery, General and Operative (W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia and London, 1907). Each edition of this work sees a marked increase in its size, due, for the most part, to the incorporation of extracts from recent papers. These additions are not always selected with discrimination, and many of the extracts are of a length out of all proportion to their importance or value. A judicious use of the pruning-hook, particularly in the sections dealing with general surgery, would materially increase the value of this work to the student. The illustrations are numerous, and the index full.

No better résumé of the year’s work appears than that contained in “The Practical Medicine Series” (G. Gillies & Co., Glasgow). The volume devoted to General Surgery has again been edited by Dr. John B. Murphy, and it contains the gist of all the important papers that have appeared during 1906. In the introduction the editor indicates the general trend of surgical progress, as manifested by the contents of this volume; and it becomes evident that “biology and chemico-biological knowledge are rapidly advancing in their practical preventive and therapeutic results,” and that “the fluids of the body . . . are assuming a very important rôle, as shown by their opsonic properties.” While the surgery of cerebral neoplasms has advanced but little, the results of early drainage of intra-cranial infections have materially improved. The following sentence, which we quote verbatim, is evidently for home consumption: “It seems that the time for legal recognition of and punishment for delay in diagnosis and operation for appendicitis is due, and, unless the profession awakens to its shortcomings, an enactment will soon be placed on our statute books.” We can confidently recommend this publication to all who desire a readable summary of the literature of surgery issued in 1906.