of hernia, leave the first dressing to a nurse? a nurse, too, thoroughly trained and thoroughly capable. I fancy not. Such cases would be looked after by the surgeon himself, or at least left in the hands of a well-qualified assistant. Imagine an operator of an abdominal section allowing a half-trained, or even wholly-trained, nurse to open up the wound within six hours after operation and to wash the part with doubtful sponges and doubtful solutions.

Not less absurd is it for the obstetrician to allow his nurse to introduce a douche-nozzle into the vagina and to wash the parts within a few hours after delivery. Yet such is the common practice.

No wonder that from 1871 to 1894 at least 50,542 women died in England and Wales from puerperal fever.

I suppose that no one now believes that puerperal fever (septicemia) ever arises de novo. It can only be introduced from without; and if the obstetrician will only take the same precautions as are now taken by the modern surgeon, puerperal septicemia will become a thing of the past.

My personal experience teaches this, and if the young practitioner starting midwifery practice will attend to these points, he, too, may have an unbroken record for twenty years.

---

Part Second.

REVIEWs.

A Pictorial Atlas of Skin Diseases and Syphilitic Affections, in Photo-Lithochromes, from Models in the Museum of the Saint Louis Hospital, Paris. With Explanatory Woodcuts and Text by Besnier, Fournier, Hallopeau, Tenneson, Du Castel, Physicians; Feulard, Curator of the Museum, and Jacquet, Secretary. Edited and Annotated by J. J. Pringle, M.B., F.R.C.P., Assistant-Physician to, and Physician to the Department for Diseases of the Skin at the Middlesex Hospital. Part III. London: The Rebman Publishing Co., Limited: 1896.

The contents of the third part of the beautiful Saint Louis Atlas are quite equal in interest and practical importance to the preceding ones, which have already been so favourably noticed in our pages. Two plates are devoted to tertiary syphilitic lesions. The first of these gives four typical representations of affections of the tongue, and in the accompanying letterpress from the eloquent pen of Fournier is traced out the manner in which the diseased process works. Thus two figures depict a superficial and a
parenchymatous sclerosing glossitis; the others gummatous glossitis in its mucous and its deep variety respectively. A study of these, read in the light of Fournier's remarks, will be found to explain very clearly the several modes in which syphilis in its later period attacks the tongue, so as to render their subsequent recognition an easy matter. This, with respect to a more than possible confusion with cancerous and tubercular new formations, is of the highest consequence. The other syphilitic plate exhibits the ulceration due to the breaking-down of gummata which, arising deeply, have eventually reached the surface. The special significance of the particular case, admirably related by Feulard, consists in this, that the subject of it was unaware that he ever had syphilis, though this was proved by the history of his progeny, and the result of treatment. The third plate is peculiar and unique, for it shows a phase of dermatitis herpetiformis most closely resembling herpes iris; yet Hallopeau produces evidence strongly supporting his opinion. Some very instructive annotations have been subjoined by Pringle, which not only render the description more complete, but emphasize the anomalous character of this example. But of all the plates herein presented the fourth is, to our mind, the most educative. In this is delineated a case of disseminate epithelioma of the face, "sebaceous" in type at the outset. It is the sebaceous element which imparts the intrinsic interest, for in the two drawings given the whole life-history of the disease can be followed out, from the primary yellow greasy accretion to the deeply eroding ulcer which has excavated the side of the nose. A glance at this quite remarkable portrait will enable such a condition to be readily identified, and to be treated satisfactorily at an early stage. All that is known on the subject is epitomised in Besnier's remarks. A handsome portfolio to contain the fasciculi accompanies Part III. This at once preserves them from dust, and renders their consultation easier.

The Schott Methods of the Treatment of Chronic Diseases of the Heart, with an Account of the Nauheim Baths and of the Therapeutic Exercises. By W. Bezly Thorne, M.D., M.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill: 1896.

The first edition of Dr Bezly Thorne's small book on The Schott Methods of the Treatment of Chronic Diseases of the Heart was favourably noticed in these columns last year. It speaks both for the popularity of the book and the Schott methods that a second edition should appear after so short an interval. No changes or additions of any kind have been made in this edition, and this must be a subject of regret. The methods have now been sufficiently proved to entitle them to be tried in all suitable cases, but evidence is not wanting to show that they are by no means so universally applicable as he claims them to be. We admire the
clearness of his descriptions and the diagrams illustrating the resisted exercises, but we cannot agree with him in the value he places upon his cardiac outlines obtained by percussion. We would recommend him not to trust to auscultatory percussion in the way he seems to do; but let percussion be as perfect as it can be, the heart is not sufficiently definitely percussible to allow us to outline it with such accuracy as is maintained by him. Another serious defect in the book is the omission of any reference to the dangers or failures of the systems. It cannot be that Dr Thorne has not met with them or does not believe in them, for they have occurred in the experience of Leith, Herschell, and others. It would also have been advisable had he given us a bibliography of the literature upon the subject. He says that happily the methods promise soon to become an acknowledged and accepted medical practice. While endorsing this hope, we at the same time emphasize their unsuitability and fallibility in many cases.

An American Text-Book of Obstetrics for Practitioners and Students.

Richard C. Norris, M.D., Editor. London: The Rebman Publishing Company, Limited: 1896.

The medical profession in America may justly feel pride in this work, which has been written by a number of well-known obstetricians, including Drs C. W. Earle, H. J. Garrigues, Barton Cooke Hirst, Howard A. Kelly, and Theophilus Parvin, and edited by Dr Richard C. Norris. When we say that the illustrations constitute the most prominent feature of the work and its chief value, we do not thereby depreciate the letterpress, for the illustrations reach a very high standard both as regards number and excellence of execution. In this relation it is only fair to mention the name of Dr Robert L. Dickinson, the art editor, who must have spent an enormous amount of time in collating and adapting the drawings to a uniform scale. So numerous are these illustrations (nearly nine hundred) that it is no matter for wonder that we find some of them which can scarcely be regarded as necessary for the elucidation of the text; at the same time, most of them serve a distinct and useful purpose.

The arrangement of the sections of the work is good, if not at all original. The anatomy of the genitals is first studied; then pregnancy is considered, including its physiology, diagnosis, hygiene, and pathology; next in order comes labour, its physiology, mechanism, and pathology; then the puerperium, normal and pathological, is dealt with; a section specially devoted to the new-born infant follows; and it may here be noted with deep regret that the writer (Dr Washington Earle) was removed by death almost before his work was finished, and certainly before the book was published; and, finally, there is a full description of obstetric surgery, in which instrumental and manual operations and celotomy for sepsis are dealt with in turn.
Of course these sections are not all treated with equal power. The part devoted to Dystocia, occupying about 150 pages, is specially worthy of note; the illustrations of the various forms of pelvic deformity are excellent, and the foetal causes of dystocia are given more fully than in any English text-book on obstetrics with which we are acquainted. Another excellent section is that on the pathology of the new-born infant. It is, however, unnecessary to enter further into the details of this thoroughly up-to-date text-book of the art and science of obstetrics. We can confidently predict for it a large sale on both sides of the Atlantic.

A Manual of Obstetrics. By A. F. A. King, A.M., M.D., Professor of Obstetrics in the Columbian University, Washington, etc. Sixth Edition. London: Henry Kimpton: 1896.

Prof. King's Manual is now so well known that the appearance of a sixth edition calls only for a congratulatory note from the reviewer, who has recently been satiated with large co-operative treaties on midwifery from across the Atlantic. A large number of additional illustrations have been introduced into the work, which is quite worthy of the high place it has attained in the undergraduate mind. In an Appendix the author gives the report of the Committee on the Uniformity in Obstetrical Nomenclature, of which he himself was a member. It is a curious comment upon this that Dr King himself does not seem to have adopted the new nomenclature.

Our Growing Children, with special reference to the Physical Education of the Weakly. By Gerard Smith, M.R.C.S. London: John Bale & Sons: 1896.

In this little work Mr Smith explains to lay readers the causes of the various bodily deformities and defects which are apt to come on during school-life. He shows how they come about, and how they may with care be prevented or removed. Such subjects as curvature of the spine, stooping and round shoulders, weak feet and legs, and eye-strain in school, are treated of among others, and there is an appendix on posture in cycling.

The book is meant for the instruction of parents and others who are responsible for the physical training of boys and girls in the common-sense rules by which they should be guided. It deserves a wide circulation, containing, as it does, a large amount of thoroughly sound advice clearly and sensibly expressed by one who evidently understands what he is writing about.

Diets for Infants and Children in Health and in Disease. By Louis Starr, M.D., Editor of the American Text-book of the Diseases of Children. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders: 1896.

This useful little work divides itself into two parts. First, It contains seven sets of detachable diet slips on which accurate directions
can be written for artificially-fed infants and for children in health. A, diet from birth to end of seven months; B, diet throughout the eighth and ninth month; C, diet for the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth month; D, from the twelfth to the eighteenth month; E, from the eighteenth month to two and a half years; F, from two and a half to three and a half years; and, G, diet in childhood. Secondly, It contains fourteen sets of slips for different diets required in various diseases, such as acute and chronic gastrointestinal disorders, for constipation, scurvy, scarlatinal nephritis, rickets, tabes, phthisis, and chorea. Each slip can be added to or subtracted from at pleasure, and will certainly save the prescribing physician much trouble, and also prevent the mother or nurse from mistakes of memory. It is neatly got up, and the cases can be indexed on the counterfoils of the detachable slips like chequebooks.

_A Manual of Pharmacology and Therapeutics._ By William Murrell, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to, and Lecturer on Pharmacology and Therapeutics at, the Westminster Hospital, etc. London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox: 1896.

This manual is one which is likely to become a favourite with students. It is written primarily for the requirements of students preparing for the Conjoint Board of the London Colleges, and is an abstract of the author's lectures delivered at the Westminster Hospital. It gives in concise form the leading pharmacological actions and therapeutic uses of the principal medicines of the British Pharmacopoeia.

The book is by no means without errors. At page 373 Dr Murrell speaks of pilocarpine as a "liquid alkaloid like coniine and nicotine"—pilocarpine is a crystalline substance containing oxygen. The spelling of Guaiacum is generally wrong. Notwithstanding these and other inaccuracies, it is a manual which we have much pleasure in recommending to students. Dr Murrell is well known as a most distinguished pharmacologist and therapeutist.

_A Dictionary of Treatment, or Therapeutic Index._ By William Whitla, M.D. Third Edition. London: Henry Renshaw: 1896.

The volume is dedicated to Ian MacLaren, in grateful acknowledgment of his portrait of the "loftiest and most sublime ideal of the life-work of a physician." The book is arranged as a therapeutic index. Under the heading of the different diseases or symptoms the appropriate treatment is discussed. At times the volume errs in giving rather a list of the drugs that have been used, however empirically, than an account of the rational treatment of disease. On the whole, however, the volume should be of great use to the busy medical man, enabling him rapidly to refresh his memory in the treatment of a given case. The medical part of
the work is good, but the surgical technique is rather behind the
times in some points.

*A Practical Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics, with*
*special reference to the Clinical Application of Drugs.* By John
V. Shoemaker, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Materia Medica, etc.,
College of Philadelphia. Third Edition. Thoroughly Revised.
Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company: 1895.

We had occasion to speak very favourably of the two previous
editions, and we are glad to see that this most valuable work has
reached a third edition. This edition includes all the newer
medicines, as well as the treatment of disease by means of "animal
extracts, secretions or juices, and immunized serum or anti-
toxines." It is a most valuable work of reference.

*Braithwaite's Retrospect of Medicine.* Vol. CXII., July to December
1895. London: Simpkin & Co., Limited.

This useful volume continues to give the general practitioner
an abstract of the work done in the various branches of medical
science and of surgery during the previous six months. The
articles noticed are well selected and the abstracts ably made.
The volume should keep up its deserved popularity.

*The American Year-Book of Medicine and Surgery.* Edited by
George M. Gould, M.D. London: The Rebman Publishing
Co., Limited: 1896.

This huge volume is published to give physicians, in compact
form, an annual epitome of new and progressive medical truths.
The one objection to the volume is its size; to its contents none
can be taken. Epitomes are given of a vast number of the best
articles in the different branches of medicine and science. The
abstracts are well done, and the volume is freely illustrated with
plates and figures. A copious index makes the information easy
of access.

*Hypnotism, Mesmerism, and the New Witchcraft.* By Ernest
Hart. A New Edition, Enlarged. London: Smith, Elder, &
Co.: 1896.

We have already noticed this book. The title has evidently
drawn, and a new edition has been called for. The enlargement
consists of a reprint of "The Eternal Gullible" from the *Century
Illustrated Monthly Magazine*; Notes on Automatic Writing, Exit
Europia, and the Hypnotism of Trilby, from the *British Medical
Journal*.

There is little new in the book on which to comment. Mr
Hart's views on the subject of hypnotism are well known; he will
have none of it, and perhaps he is right. Holding these views,
however, we are somewhat surprised to find that he thinks that in Trilby, as written by Mr Du Maurier, "he has not outstepped the bounds of possibility."

Report on the Sanitary Condition of Scarborough for 1895. By Herbert Littlejohn, M.B., etc., Medical Officer of Health.

This is the first Report presented to the Town Council of Scarborough by Dr Littlejohn, who in his covering letter states "that, as his predecessor in office only demitted office in the latter part of the year under review, any credit arising from improved sanitary conditions is naturally due to him."

The Report is a good one, terse, and to the point, dealing with the births, deaths, and marriages which occurred in the borough during 1895. The birth-rate was 26·3 per 1000, the marriage-rate 19 persons per 1000 (or 9·5 marriages), and the death-rate 20·31 per 1000 of the population as estimated. It may be noted Dr Littlejohn deducts the deaths of 17 visitors in computing the last of the above events, but, as far as we can see, allows nothing for any inhabitant of Scarborough who happened to die outwith it during the year.

Among the zymotics typhoid fever stood high, 109 cases of the disease being notified, with a total of 18 deaths, half of these latter occurring in one of the six districts.

Dr Littlejohn also reports as to the necessity of a new infectious hospital, on slaughter-houses, meat inspection, etc.

To the Report of the Medical Officer of Health that of the Sanitary Inspector is added, from which it is seen that much good work has been overtaken by this department.

The only point we should desire to have improved would be the more full heading to some of the Tables which are embodied throughout the Report.

_____________________________
Part Third.
_____________________________

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

SESSION LXXIV.—MEETING VII.

Wednesday, March 4, 1896.—Dr Argyll Robertson, President, in the Chair.

I.—Election of Members.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society:—Harvey Rainy, M.B. C.M., 25 George Square; William Alexander Mackintosh, M.B. C.M., 13 Abercromby Place, Stirling.