NEW EDITIONS.

*Operative Midwifery.* By J. M. Munro Kerr, M.D., C.M.(Glasgow), Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Glasgow University (Muirhead Chair). Third Edition. Pp. xvi. + 725. With 308 Illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1916. Price 25s. net.

One is not surprised to find a third edition of Professor Munro Kerr's well-known and highly esteemed text-book on *Operative Midwifery* on the table; but it says much for both author and publisher that the work has appeared in the form and with the rapidity that it has done in these strenuous times. It is a curious and a significant fact that war has rather turned attention to, than led it away from, midwifery; but it is easily to be explained, for if the present is to be the last of wars, then there will be tremendous gaps in manhood to be filled up, whilst if it is to be only the first of a series (surely an unthinkable thing), then recruits for the armies of the future must be found. In either case the preservation of infant life, and the bringing of as many infants as possible to the birth, demand the skill and call for the attention of the obstetrician. Professor Munro Kerr's volume really needs no lengthened review; it has supplied a felt need and filled a niche in medical literature satisfactorily, and it has received approbation and applause. Further, it is no mere assemblage of the views of others on the vexed questions of operative midwifery, but carries in every part the distinct impress of the author's own opinion, and enjoys the advantage of his wide experience. As might be expected, the chapter on Cæsarean section is excellent, although one misses any reference to Casalis's plan of delivery by hysterectomy, in which the womb is taken unopened from the abdomen and the child removed immediately thereafter—a plan which offers certain advantages in handled and presumably infected cases. The illustrations of Cæsarean section are most helpful in understanding the technic employed by the author. A little surprise will doubtless be expressed by some who read Professor Munro Kerr's comparatively mild criticism of the metallic dilators of the cervix, and his hopeful, if not optimistic, forecast of the probable results of cervical stretching by their means. These, however, are just the matters on which differences of opinion are expected to exist, and it is in their treatment that the individuality of the work is centred and finds expression.
The fact that only two years have elapsed since Dr. Joseph de Lee presented the first edition of his *Principles and Practice of Obstetrics* to the profession is sufficient testimony of the excellent reception which has been accorded to it both in this country and in America.

The publishers, notwithstanding the introduction of much new matter, have succeeded by using thinner paper in preventing the volume, which was already of considerable size, from assuming clumsy proportions.

The enlarged chapters on such subjects as the Abderhalden reaction of pregnancy, extraperitoneal Cesarean section, and "twilight sleep," are welcome additions. The article on "twilight sleep" is of particular interest at the present time, since the profession both in America and abroad have recently determined — so to speak — to give scopolamine morphine amnesia one more chance, after having practically abandoned it for several years. The author expresses the opinion that it can only be properly carried out in a maternity hospital, and that "its generalised re-employment will result in a repetition of the foetal and maternal mortalities and morbidity of twelve years ago."

In the article on eclampsia the author states that in his experience the use of veratrone has not altered his results either way, and he now seldom uses it, and then only in the puerperium. We read with surprise and regret that this is his conclusion, because, since Dr. Haultain introduced the use of veratrone and placed his results before the Edinburgh Medical School, and subsequently before the profession at large, we have used it whenever opportunity arose, and have been able to corroborate all that Dr. Haultain claimed for it, never having seen it fail to stop the convulsions. The results have been so striking that we hope Dr. de Lee will not reserve veratrone for the puerperium, but will give it an extended trial in the eclampsia of pregnancy and labour.

Many new drawings have been added, and the Touch pictures are quite a feature of the illustrations. In the operative section the series of drawings illustrating Porro-Cæsarean section are beautifully executed, but as this operation is so rarely performed as compared with the conservative one, we think the latter operation might in the next edition have one or two illustrations to itself.

The author himself hints that he may be rather dogmatic, but with that we have no fault to find, coming as it does from a
teacher of such wide experience, and in command of such a wealth of material.

The second edition may be expected to gain even a wider popularity than the first.

Transactions of the American Gynecological Society. Vol. XL., for the Year 1915. Pp. lv. + 545. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan, printer. 1915.

The annual volume of the American Gynecological Society's Transactions contains a wealth of interesting reading, some of it obstetric, some of it gynecological, and some of it rather foreign to both obstetrics and gynecology. But, indeed, medicine is not divided into watertight compartments, and never should be; and although pyelitis is clearly a medical subject, its association with pregnancy brings it into obstetrics, whilst renal and ureteral calculus force their way in on account of the possibility of errors in diagnosis. Schumann writes in a comprehensive manner on hydrops universalis fetus, Martin and Chalfant deal with ovarian transplantation, and Sproat Heaney has some novel suggestions to make regarding nitrous oxide in labour; but all the articles are worth reading, and the Society has good reason to be satisfied with its annual output of work.

Diseases of the Nose and Throat, Comprising Affections of the Trachea and Oesophagus: A Text-book for Students and Practitioners. By Sir St. Clair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Second Edition. London: Cassell & Co., Ltd. 1916. Price 25s. net.

We welcome a second edition of Sir St. Clair Thomson's text-book on Diseases of the Nose and Throat, a standard work upon the subject. The author in his preface introduces a quotation from Michelet—"Un livre est toujours un moyen de faire un meilleur livre"—and with this sentiment we agree, recognising that the author has improved upon his first publication, which appeared four years ago.

Our knowledge of the diseases of the upper air passages and our methods of dealing with them are always progressing, and the writer of a text-book must keep abreast of such progress. The previous volume has been carefully revised and new matter introduced where that has been found necessary. It is to the latter that we naturally turn in reviewing a second edition.

It is characteristic of this specialty that it is constantly extending its boundaries: the trachea, the bronchi, the oesophagus, and even the stomach have been brought under the eye of the trained laryngologist.
Now, the ophthalmologist is being relieved of his *bête noire*, the chronic dacryocystitis with stenosis of the lachrymal duct, because the nasal surgeon can drain the sac by establishing a permanent opening in the nasal cavity. The nasal route to the pituitary body is regarded by many as the way *par excellence* for dealing with tumours of that region, the sphenoidal sinus and the sella being reached after an extensive submucous resection of the nasal septum has been carried out. Each of these more recent developments is dealt with by the author in his special section upon operations. He tells us in his preface that he has entirely re-written the chapter upon the removal of the tonsils, and in it he gives a very fair account of the arguments for and against partial or complete removal of these structures. He decides, like the majority of laryngologists in this country, in favour of the latter method of treatment.

We feel sure that this volume, like its predecessor, will meet with the success which it fully deserves.

*The Treatment of Fractures, with Notes upon a few Common Dislocations.*

By C. L. Scudder. Eighth Edition. Pp. 734. With 1057 Illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1915. Price 25s. net.

It can safely be stated that the eighth edition of this already well-known book will be received as a welcome friend by the medical man—whether he be in civil practice or on military duty, for undoubtedly the author has succeeded in giving a most comprehensive and up-to-date description of the immediate and later treatment of this important, and often extremely troublesome, branch of surgical practice.

The style is easy, and the illustrations, which include photographs of deformities following fracture, skiagrams, and X-ray tracings, are numerous and of a very high order. These points, and the fact that there is a very complete index, make the obtaining of information a matter of simplicity.

The earlier chapters are devoted to the treatment of individual fractures, while the last few chapters discuss special factors in the causation, diagnosis, and treatment of fractures in general.

In the latter group, the chapter on the treatment of gunshot fractures of bone deserves special mention. At the present time, the interest in this class of injury must be world-wide. In a large proportion of cases the treatment cannot be conducted along recognised lines, devolving upon the medical attendant a more constant supervision, and demanding from him a greater resourcefulness and initiative. The author, however, has met this contingency by giving in Chapter XXI. instructions in minute detail in the employment of the plaster-of-Paris bandage as a method of treating these open fractures.
An excellent account of the Röntgen rays and its relation to fractures is given in Chapter XX.

The last chapter deals with the more common dislocations, and should prove especially helpful to the busy practitioner.

Altogether, it is an admirable book, and worthy of the highest praise.

Emergency Surgery. By JOHN W. SLUSS, A.M., M.D. Third Edition. Pp. 832. With 682 Illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1916. Price 17s. 6d. net.

This book is designed specially to assist the practitioner in the treatment of surgical emergencies. The author's descriptions are easily followed, and are written from a practical point of view. It must be admitted that most of the emergencies which one can think of are discussed in detail. One misses, however, a description of the operative treatment of perforated duodenal and gastric ulcers. A practitioner must certainly be prepared to operate in such cases, if special surgical skill is not available.

In the present edition the subjects show evidence of careful revision. The chapter on military surgery has been entirely rewritten and embodies the results of the experience of surgeons in the present war. The large number of illustrations, derived from numerous sources, increase the value of the work.

A Manual of Surgical Anaesthesia. By H. BELLAMY GARDNER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Second Edition. Pp. xii. + 220. With 44 Illustrations. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1916. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This is a concise and well-written handbook of anaesthetics intended for the use of the student and general practitioner. The descriptions of methods of administration are admirably clear and are expressed in the dogmatic manner which is desirable in such matters. The author avoids the danger of expending too much space in explaining the mechanical details of the apparatus employed, these being, as he mentions, much more readily understood by demonstration.

The sections on spinal analgesia and the intratracheal insufflation of ether are very brief, and the merits or risks of the two procedures are not discussed in any detail. The section on the treatment of emergencies is also somewhat curtailed, but, as the author remarks, the greater part of the book is intended to indicate methods by which such complications will be avoided. On the whole, this is a book which can be recommended as a good practical guide to the administration of anaesthetics.
**New Editions**

*Text-book of Operative Dentistry.* By Various Authors. Edited by C. N. Johnson, M.A., L.D.S. Third Edition. Pp. v. + 891. With 805 Illustrations. London: William Heinemann. 1915. Price 25s. net.

Seventeen different authors have contributed to this volume of operative dentistry, and as each writer has dealt with an aspect of the subject on which he is an authority, the work is of exceptional value alike to dental students and practitioners. The new edition presents to the reader the most advanced views on the subject. Its value is enhanced by two additional chapters on the treatment of impacted lower third molars, and on the application of the Röntgen rays to dentistry. The illustrations, including the radiograms, are appropriate and excellent.

*Essentials of Medical Electricity.* By E. Reginald Morton, M.D., F.R.C.S. Third Edition, revised and rewritten by Elkin P. Cumberbatch, M.A., M.B. Pp. xiv. + 303. With 83 Illustrations. London: Henry Kimpton. 1916. Price 6s. net.

The present edition of this book is a remarkable case of condensation, for in it the author has achieved the difficulty of producing a useful survey of medical electricity in a small space. Apart from a large number of good and helpful illustrations, the book is written in a style which is at once clear and concise. Particularly interesting are the chapters dealing with ionic medication, and the maladies for which electrical treatment may be applied. The book as a whole will be found instructive, for its pages focus much valuable information in a subject of absorbing interest.