AMERICANS are famed for doing things on a big scale. As regards size and weight, Clifton Edgar's *Practice of Obstetrics* will certainly bear off the palm. In illustrations, too, it is unequalled. There are 1,221 illustrations (many printed in colours) in 1,060 pages. Many of these illustrations are new, and most of them are useful, but some are mere padding, such as pictures of tins for holding chloride of lime and carbonate of soda. As in other American books on obstetrics, we find a fair sprinkling of nude figures. A handsome woman taking a bath in the erect posture, makes a somewhat beautiful picture to the eyes of an admirer of the human form divine, but we do not think an obstetrician will learn much from it. The illustrations are all clearly executed. The text is also of a high standard, but varies somewhat.

The book is founded on Edgar's fifteen years of work in maternity hospitals and in bedside and didactic teaching, so that it is the result of experience and not a mere echo of the writings of others. It is divided into ten parts:—I, The physiology of the female genital organs; II, Physiological pregnancy; III, Pathological pregnancy; IV, Physiological labour; V, Pathological labour; VI, Physiological puerperium; VII, Pathological puerperium; VIII, The physiology of the newly-born; IX, The pathology of the newly-born; X, Obstetric surgery. This is a very convenient arrangement. The author discusses certain subjects, such as rape, which are not usually taken up in an obstetrical work. He gives no less than twenty-seven illustrations of different forms of hymens, ruptured and otherwise. He also deals with antenatal diseases of the foetus and monstrosities. He has illustrations of nearly all the known forms of monstrosities.

The parts dealing with the physiology and pathology of pregnancy, and the management of labour and the puerperium are very well written, but the mechanism of labour is not up to so high a standard.
The obstetric outfit he advises is a very complete one, in fact, rather too complete, for ordinary practitioners to carry. He insists very strongly on the use of sterile rubber gloves as a routine measure in all cases. He also strongly advocates very thorough sterilisation of the hands and fore-arms. Our experience of the use of rubber gloves has not commended them to us, and we do not think they are likely to come into general use in this country, neither do we think they are necessary provided proper precautions are taken to sterilise the hands and fore-arms.

In an appendix very elaborate forms for case-taking are given. We are afraid the very elaborateness will defeat the ends in view. To expect a student to fill in the many details asked, would be asking considerably more than one could justly expect.

The book is one which we can strongly recommend.

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A Text-Book of Obstetrics. By J. CLARENCE WEBSTER, M.D.
London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1904.

Everything written by Clarence Webster is read with interest by obstetricians, for his monographs on the Anatomy of Labour and the Puerperium and on Ectopic Pregnancy have placed him in the forefront of scientific workers. We were delighted, therefore, to receive his Text-Book of Obstetrics.

Careful perusal of the work, we are sorry to admit, leaves in our mind feelings of disappointment. The book as a whole drags, and students, we feel sure, will find it tedious and uninteresting, and after all it is really a text-book for students. We regret this exceedingly, for there is a vast amount of detail and valuable information in its pages. In the purely scientific parts of the book the writer is at his best. The pages on Placentation, Anatomy of Labour, and Tubal Pregnancy are worthy of special mention. We certainly know of no text-book in which these subjects are better discussed.

But a text-book in midwifery must consider the art as well as the science of the subject, and, indeed, it is in great part by the soundness and clearness of the practical teaching that it will be judged.

Now the book is disappointing from the practical standpoint. Take, for example, the remarks on “The Obstetric Examination.” Surely abdominal palpation deserved a more careful and extensive description. Then, again, in discussing
occipito-posterior positions of the vertex the author mentions a variety of different treatments, but the one which is best, the grasping of the head in the one hand and rotating the shoulder with the other externally, is not clearly described nor emphasised as being the most useful. To simply enumerate methods is not the important part of a text-book except in so far it is of use for examination purposes. A clear description of what the author has found from his own wide practical experience to be the best should be put in the forefront, other methods being incidentally referred to or very briefly described. While reading the practical part of Webster's text-book we could never get away from the idea that the author was not writing from his own experience.

Regarding his teaching on those matters on which he decidedly gives his own personal opinions, we are at times inclined to differ from him. But the author has a right to his views, and we know that he has studied all that is best in the writings of the great obstetricians of the past. We hope at a future time, be it in a new edition or be it in a completely new work on obstetrics, to have the author give us his own personal experiences and his reasons for the faith that is in it. Such a work, we feel certain, would be of the very greatest value and usefulness.

The Manual Treatment of Diseases of Women. By GUSTAF NORSTROM, M.D. With Bibliography. New York: G. E. Stechert. 1903.

The author of this monograph is a strong supporter of most of the opinions and much of the practice of Thure Brandt. He does not, however, follow slavishly in his lead. His experience has led him to modify and even to abandon a few of Brandt's methods. For instance, he has quite given up the treatment in cases of prolapse of the uterus.

Now that Schauta, Schultze, Olshausen, Ott, Pinard, Auvard, and other eminent gynaecologists have advocated pelvic massage, Dr. Norström hopes that in the near future it will be generally received as one of the recognised modes of treating the diseases of women. He is convinced that in suitable cases, such as subacute and chronic metritis and parametritis, speedier and better results can be obtained by this treatment alone than by any other therapeutic measure.

In a future edition the author should study to be less prolix.
His frequent repetitions are tedious, and most of his somewhat rambling discussion on gynaecological pathology, which occupies fully one half of the volume, could be omitted with advantage.

Gynaecological Nursing. By Netta Stewart, Sister in the Extra-mural Wards of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1903.

Considering the great advance of gynaecology during the past few years, it is remarkable that so few books on gynaecological nursing have been published, and that the few which have appeared are so incomplete. The present volume, as Sir Halliday Croom states in his short commendatory introduction, "seems therefore to fill an obvious want." Though it contains only 174 pages, yet, owing to the avoidance of any attempt to teach gynaecology and to the simple and direct style employed by the authoress, scarcely anything of importance has been omitted. It is pleasantly written, is thoroughly practical and useful from beginning to end, and throughout it shows abundant evidence of patient observation and mature experience.

It may interest some to note on p. 51, that in Edinburgh it is still the custom that "the bowels should not be allowed to move for a week" (!) after the operation of perineal repair, with the result, even in spite of the semi-starvation which is enforced, that the faecal matter is "often so hard as to be liable to cause injury."

Natural Mineral Waters: Their Properties and Uses. Eleventh Edition. Revised and Enlarged. London: Ingram & Royle, Limited. 1904.

The use of natural mineral waters seems to have extended very greatly in recent years, and the present volume may with advantage be kept close to his hand by every medical practitioner. He may look here for a short account of each water, with its chemical constitution and therapeutic uses. In a book distributed in this country we should have liked to see St. Ronan's in the list of table waters, and Moffat might have been mentioned among the sulphurous springs. However, as it is, the reader has a large number to choose from. A copy of the pamphlet will be sent free by the publishers to any medical man on application.
Reviews.

_Ureteric Meatoscopy in Obscure Diseases of the Kidney._ By E. Hurry Fenwick, F.R.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1903.

We have pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to a volume dealing with a branch of genito-urinary surgery, exploring a region in a thorough, up-to-date manner. Apart from the fact that anything coming from the pen of such an illustrious author is sure to be good and instructive reading, this book is a remarkable production and résumé of a lifelong study, written in the best possible style and taste.

It has eleven chapters worthy of our readers' indulgence. The chapters on "Rare abnormalities," "Renal haematuria, with and without pain," and "Urinary tuberculosis," are the most interesting to the general reader. The volume from beginning to end is interesting, and very well illustrated with clinical cases and diagrams. It is another example of the author's careful style and thoroughness, and never allows the interest of the reader to flag.

We see in it a book written by a specialist on a speciality which often carries with it a deal of tedious reading and unimportant detail. This volume is decidedly the exception. Although a great deal of it is out of the practical range of the general practitioner, and only within that of specialists and hospital surgeons, yet it provides instruction and knowledge for all.

The book is well got up, and should hold a place of importance in every medical gentleman's library. We can recommend it for perusal to the profession, for its lucid, precise, and interesting matter.

__A Manual of Medicine._ Edited by W. H. Allchin, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.Ed. Vol. V. London: Macmillan & Co., Limited. 1903.

Dr. Allchin is to be heartily congratulated on the completion of this important work, in which he has borne a considerable part in addition to his duties as editor. The present volume, the last of the series, is also the bulkiest of the five, and we are disposed to think that elaboration of details has been carried further in the later articles than was the case in the first volume. The subjects considered are the diseases of the digestive system and of the liver; diseases of the peritoneum and of the vessels of the abdomen; diseases of the kidneys, and
diseases of the ductless glands. Much attention is paid to normal anatomy and physiology, and the articles on these subjects ought to be very helpful to teachers. The editor writes on the anatomy and physiology of the alimentary organs; on diseases of the stomach and intestines; of the pancreas; and of the liver in part. Dr. Bertram Abrahams writes on the diseases of the mouth, pharynx, and oesophagus; Dr. Bradford on diseases of the kidneys; Dr. John H. Bryant on diseases of the abdominal vessels; Dr. Sidney Coupland, with Dr. Abrahams, on diseases of the ductless glands; Dr. Alex. Crombie on sprue, and on diseases of the liver in part; Dr. Bertrand Dawson on the physical examination of the stomach and intestines; Dr. Robert Hutchison on food and diet; and Dr. Lazarus-Barlow on the bacteria of the alimentary canal. Dr. Barlow and Dr. Hebb take part in the contribution on diseases of the liver. Dr. Hale White writes on diseases of the peritoneum.

The volume bears the evidence of extensive knowledge and painstaking work on the part of the contributors, and it constitutes a fitting conclusion to what we recognise as a valuable addition to the medical text-books of this country.

The Practical Application of the Röntgen Rays in Therapeutics and Diagnosis. By W. A. Pusey, M.D., and E. W. Caldwell, B.S. London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1903.

This book, which is, perhaps, the most systematic and exhaustive we have yet seen on the subject, is by two authors whose names are well known to all connected with x-ray work. It is divided into two parts. The first deals with the subject of diagnosis, and is written by Mr. Caldwell; the second is devoted to radio-therapeutics.

The first part contains eight chapters. It opens with a description of the essentials of an x-ray equipment. This is followed by a very full description of Crooke's tubes in use both for diagnosis and for treatment.

Next comes a chapter on induction coils and interrupters, and their management. In it the author makes the following noteworthy statement:—"In the present state of affairs one must buy a coil which is rated at from 12 to 18 inches in order to obtain one which will deliver a 6-inch spark of sufficient volume for rapid radiographic work." The description of interrupters is very full, occupying twenty pages.
The next chapter is a short one on static machines. The next two are taken up with the subjects of fluoroscopy, stereo-fluoroscopy, and radiography. Details are given as to the best positions in which to radiograph the various parts. A short chapter is devoted to photographing, developing, printing, &c., and this section is closed with a chapter on the choice of an x-ray outfit.

In the preface to the second part, Dr. Pusey says:—“I have undertaken in the following pages to consider as carefully as I am able the authentic literature which has developed upon this subject, and I have supplemented that by as full a review of my own experience in that field as the subject seemed to warrant.”

We think he has been very successful in the performance of the task to which he set himself. There are seventeen chapters. The first is on the effects of x-rays on the tissues. It is here pointed out that the reactions produced by exposure to x-rays are very similar to, though not identical with, burns produced by heat.

These reactions are usually called burns, and are divided into four classes—(1) dermatitis, dry and without destruction of tissue; (2) dermatitis, with formation of blebs; (3) destruction of epidermis; and (4) destruction of the whole skin and more or less of the underlying tissues. Those of the last class are said to have “an almost malignant tendency to persist,” and it is stated that the dead tissue may not be thrown off for several months, or even a year. The author expresses the belief that epithelioma is likely to occur on the backs of the hands of x-ray workers who have a “persistent chronic inflammatory process” going on, and he reports two cases in which epithelioma developed in the scars of x-ray lesions.

There is a very instructive chapter on the histological changes produced by x-rays, both in normal tissues and also in diseased conditions, such as psoriasis, lupus, carcinoma, and lepra.

In a chapter entitled “Cause of tissue changes after x-ray exposures,” the author asserts that “the fact that organisms in the living tissue can be destroyed by exposure to x-rays, while the same organisms in inert cultures are uninfluenced by x-rays exposures, proves positively that it is not the influence of x-rays per se that causes this destruction, but that the tissues themselves . . . play the important rôle in the germicidal process.” Then follow thirty pages on technique, in which the methods of six x-ray workers are given in detail. On the subject of “Indications for the therapeutic use of
x-rays," the author mentions about twenty different diseases in which x-rays can be profitably employed, and says "the effects of x-rays which offer possibilities of therapeutic application are as follows:—(1) Their effect in causing atrophy of the appendages of the skin; (2) their destructive action upon organisms in living tissues; (3) their stimulative action upon the metabolism of tissues; (4) their power of destroying certain pathological tissues; (5) their anodyne effects."

The following nine chapters occupy about two hundred and forty pages, and are taken up with a description of one hundred and fifty-eight cases treated by Dr. Pusey, with very full references to the results of other workers in the same field. They are abundantly illustrated with photographs taken before and after treatment. Some of the groups of cases are very large; thus, in hypertrichosis, the conclusions are drawn from the results of treatment of about eighty cases. The book closes with a short chapter on "General conclusions," in which Dr. Pusey states it as his opinion, that instead of x-ray treatment of malignant diseases increasing the danger from metastasis, as has been stated, it probably lessens it.

The book indicates very fully what has been done with the Röntgen rays, and gives clearly the technique. It is undoubtedly a standard work on the subject. We need only add that it is well printed and bound, and that the illustrations are excellent.

A Manual of Operative Surgery. By SIR FREDERICK TREVES, Bart., K.C.V.O. New Edition, revised by the Author and JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, Jun. In Two Volumes. London: Cassell & Co., Limited. 1903.

This new edition of Sir Frederick Treves' well-known Manual appears nearly twelve years after the work was originally issued. The work does not weary or confuse the reader by excess of detail, but it gives a good exposé of what the authors believe to be the best methods of operating at the present day.

We must confess to surprise that no mention is made of Kennedy's operations for birth-palsy and for tic convulsif. Similarly, there is no notice of the operation of tendon-lengthening which is quite recognised, and, indeed, is much in evidence at the present time. Again, Ogston's method of operating in talipes equino-varus is conspicuous by its absence. In treating of osteotomy of the femur, the reference to Fig. 179 is rather confusing (vol. i, p. 550). In extreme genu
valgum the line $A B$ passes into the lower part of the external condyle. This is clearly a slip, but, as regards the omissions noted above we must own to a difference of opinion with the authors of this work. Notwithstanding, we welcome the Manual and can, we think, safely predict for it a wide appreciation.

The Exact Science of Health, based upon Life's Great Law.
By Robert Walter, M.D. Vol. I: Principles. New York: Edgar S. Warner Publishing Co.

"The Argument," which prefaxes the preface in this work, gives the reader something to think about, whatever may be the result of his thoughts. It is here stated that the "primitive fact" of physiological and medical science has been discovered, and found to be in perfect analogy with Newton's law of gravitation. Further, "the primal element of every primitive fact" is the force or power which performs all the work of its department. These two, the force and the law, which are inseparable, constitute the primitive fact of the science, which explains, only because it produces, all its phenomena. Force controlled by law, or law sustained by force, as one chooses, accounts for all that is.

The preface itself contains a large number of assertions which quite sufficiently indicate the trend of the contents of the volume as a whole. A few extracts from the preface will show this decisively enough to satisfy even the discoverer of "Life's Great Law."

"We note another leading and parallel thought which appears in both chemistry and medical science—they have sought to accomplish the impossible. The one would transmute the baser metals into gold, and the other the baser forces into life" (the italics are the reviewer's).

"Vaccination, antitoxin, the cure for consumption, and a host of other inventions, were never of more doubtful value than they are to-day."

"Can the reader point to a single name of national reputation who has recovered from dangerous or even serious illness during the past few years? It is the president, ex-president, vice-president, generals, governors, senators, ex-speakers, bishops, who die; the tramps and day-labourers usually recover."

"Through this work, human health becomes as certain and reliable as chemistry and astronomy, we had almost said as
mathematics, and we are not sure but we would be within the bounds of truth if we had so said." The author seems to be in just a little doubt as to the inclusion of mathematics. Why so?

"Notwithstanding the boasted antitoxin, it is to be noted that diphtheria still continues more fatal than small-pox, and that the percentage of its mortality is claimed to be reduced fifty per cent by doubling the number of cases." This last might conceivably, under other circumstances, be a serious allegation.

The preface concludes with a quotation from Professor Jevons' "Principles of Science," with which all the readers of this present volume will agree.

The seventeen chapters and addenda which form the remainder of the volume do not call for detailed criticism, as they follow strictly the lines already described. In the "Review" of questions and answers at the end of each chapter will be found many interesting questions and still more interesting answers. Numerous quotations and scraps of poetry find places in the pages, but these seem superfluous in demonstrating "Life's Great Law."

Any practitioner who feels that he is in danger of falling into a narrow groove of thought with regard to present-day medical and surgical methods of treatment is recommended to peruse this volume.

The book is well bound and printed. It bears no date.

The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases and Degeneracy. By James Shaw, M.D. Bristol: John Wright & Co. 1903.

Some of the papers contributed by Dr. Shaw to various issues of the Medical Annual are here reproduced. In addition, the author is indebted to a few other authorities, notably Dr. F. Peterson, for illustrations and material assistance in the chapter on degeneracy. The illustrations throughout the book are numerous and beautifully executed. The importance of physiognomical facts in the insanities of mind and degeneracy is greater than in any other department of medicine, not only from a diagnostic and prophylactic point of view, but also from a legal aspect. Dr. Shaw clearly recognises this importance, and has based his conclusions on very convincing data. The book, as a whole, reflects nothing but credit on the author and publisher alike.