The facts on record in regard to the origin of the incorporated barber-craft in Glasgow seem so definite as to preclude much latitude of opinion about them. In 1599, James VI granted a Charter in favour of an eminent Glasgow surgeon, Mr. Peter Lowe, and of Mr. Robert Hamilton, a physician practising in the city, in which they were empowered to institute a body to regulate the practice of surgery, medicine, and pharmacy in the city and four western counties. In 1602, the barbers were taken in as a "pendicle" or serviceable appanage to the surgeons. Thus tacked on to the body by a voluntary act of the members, a few of these henchmen attended the meetings, having certain rights definitely limited; subordinate to the surgeons, in so far as they were not admitted to the office of "visitor," and liable to fines if they tried to go beyond their tether. Matters continued thus till 1656, when the Town Council granted to the two crafts a "Seal of Cause." This was the beginning of the Chirurgeons and Barbers as an incorporated body. Under this Municipal Charter, the barbers had still, so far, an inferior status that they were ineligible for the office of Deacon. The surgeons, however, appear never to have taken kindly to the Seal of Cause, eventually systematically disregarded some of its provisions, and at last, in 1719, cut themselves clear of it, and fell back on the original Charter from King James, in which the barbers had neither lot nor part.

So far for the facts on record. But this is an age in which historical judgments, even on plain facts, are being constantly challenged; and in the first part of the book under review, we have several new readings quite differing from the received version. The barbers, it appears from these, were actually incorporated in 1599 by King James’s Charter, Mr. Tennent thus to his credit throwing over the preposterous statement of Crawfurd, the historian of the Trades’ House, who makes out that they were incorporated by King James in 1559, and again in 1599. It is admitted by our barber-historian, who puts forth this claim on their behalf, that there is not a word about the
barbers from beginning to end of the charter. But, so much the worse for the charter. The barbers, it is urged, were in the charters of the colleges of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin; and in the Glasgow Charter, it follows that they must be. It would be in vain to point out that no amount of a priori reasoning of this kind can put them in the charter; Mr. Tennent prefers, like other reasoners of this stamp, to knock his head against the stone wall. A charter incorporating a craft which it absolutely ignores would fairly beat the play of "Hamlet" without the Prince of Denmark.

Our historian has made other discoveries, which throw a new light on some of the actors in this old drama. Peter Lowe especially now figures as little removed from the villain of the piece. We learn that he was "a strange compound of mystery, audacity, and quackery." He was in no ways ahead of his brethren "in either skill or knowledge, although his arrogance and egotism may have suggested superior ability." He "was supposed to be a Scotsman, but the locality of his birth is not known; he appears to have studiously concealed it;" evidently a character with whom it would be a discredit for any self-respecting barber to associate. The surgeons generally, we gather, were a poor and stupid lot. After recording one of the corporate acts, the historian remarks severely, that it is "the only graceful one recorded in their favour."

In comparison the barber was a superior style of person. In surgery he had about as much skill and knowledge as had the surgeon; and he was an adept in his own craft to boot. "In administrative ability the barbers showed their superiority over the surgeons." "The surgeons of Glasgow failed to move forward with the requirements of the day, but left the barbers to conduct the march forward."

As an interesting chronological fact, it is stated that the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons" (the only body incorporated by the charter) "was of much more recent formation than the Incorporation of Surgeons and Barbers." Other novel discoveries we have not space to mention.

It is refreshing to meet with a critic who, with evidently no craft knowledge of surgery, can speak in this decisive ex cathedra style, and, by a stroke of his pen, relegate to his true level a surgeon of 300 years ago, hitherto wrongly deemed to be not undistinguished, and as reflecting some credit on old Glasgow. Poor Peter! one can hardly give his memory much sympathy, for he may be said to have invited this dance of the barbers over his grave. He was a great
sinner. Not that his "studiously concealing" his birthplace can be regarded, even by his exacting censor, as more than a pardonable peccadillo. Indeed, the only evidence against him of this offence would equally condemn his accuser. It simply amounts to this, that he has not told us in his books where he was born. But neither has our barber-historian. And, in justice to Peter, it must be urged that he is by a long way the less sinner of the two. He, at least, was not ashamed of his country, and many times lets his readers know that he is a "Scottishman." And surely, by the way, the "damnable iteration" with which, at the head of each of his chapters, he proclaims the fact, might have saved him from the sneer that he was "supposed to be a Scotsman." If his word is to be doubted when he tells us his nationality, would his oath have availed had he made affidavit of his native parish?

The real head and front of Lowe's offending was his expressed contempt of the barber in his character of an interloper into surgery. To this feeling he gives free vent in his writings. But the "glorious barber," as he sarcastically styles him, has now his revenge! It was doubtless to Lowe's influence that the barber was kept out of the charter, or—as Mr. Tennent would perhaps prefer to have it euphemistically put—was made to figure in it as an absentee. But we put to him this question—Were the barbers, say of the years 1700-1720, really so very wide-awake and perspicacious as he makes them out to be? Can he lay his finger on the name of one of them on whose mind it ever dawned that he had the slightest interest in or rights in virtue of the Royal Charter? When the surgeons in 1719 fell back on that charter why did not the barbers do the same? The dissolution of the civic incorporation had no effect on their rights under the earlier charter; but of these rights the barbers had not a glimmer of knowledge. Far from having the bright intelligence with which they are credited by Mr. Tennent, their brains appear to have been as wooden as the blockheads on which they displayed their periwigs.

Mr. Tennent quotes part of a minute (dated 22nd June, 1602) of the incorporation founded by Lowe. We take the liberty of also quoting it, with a difference:—"It is statut and ordained that Barbors, being a pendecle of Chirurgerie, sall pay at ther admission fortie pund Scots and ilk yeir twenty shillings to the puir." Mr. Tennant "slimly" leaves out

1 It has, however, been conjectured that the word "Arellian," which he sometimes uses after his name, may mean "native of Errol."
the words in italics, without any indication of an ellipsis. In an ordinary historian this would be reckoned—well, more ingenious than ingenuous. The "pendicle" origin of the first connection of barbers with surgeons in Glasgow is evidently not to our historian's liking; but there it is on record all the same. The barbers, left out of the charter, were adopted later as a "pendicle," which is defined in the dictionary to mean, "an inferior member of certain trades or incorporations." The year 1656 marked their first actual incorporation, and that by the city. If not the least, they are the latest of the city incorporations, born out of due season.

In literary style, our historian scarcely rises to the level of his high theme, as he tends to lapse now and again into ungrammatical slovenliness. But the later chapters of the book, at which, however, we have only glanced, seem better in this respect than the earlier part.

Practice of Medicine: a Manual for Students and Practitioners. By George E. Malsbary, M.D. Illustrated with Forty-five Engravings. London: Henry Kimpton. 1900.

Meritorious as this work is in some ways, it cannot be recommended to the student of this country, were it only that it does not include the subject of nervous diseases. The work consists of six chapters with the following titles:—I, Infections; II, Diseases of the Organs of Digestion; III, Diseases of the Organs of Respiration; IV, Diseases of the Organs of Circulation; V, Diseases of the Blood; and VI, Diseases of the Genito-urinary Organs. If the author's idea is that neurology should be dealt with in a separate volume, the same might be said of the subject of any one of these six chapters. In the main, and so far as it goes, the work strikes us as being well written, but it is not altogether reliable, as, for instance, in the matter of tests for albumen in urine:—"Heller's test: cloudy urine should be filtered. Boil the urine and add concentrated nitric acid. Albumin gives a white precipitate." Two other tests are given—the potassium-ferrocyanide and Spiegler's tests; but the test by nitric acid in the cold is not mentioned. We are surprised to find an American, who omits the needless "u" in tumour and colour, spelling arrhythmia with a double "r." Here is what is said of the etiology of angina pectoris:—"The pain of angina pectoris is the cry of the tissues for fresh blood.
The blood-supply of the heart is partially or completely cut off by sclerosis involving the coronary arteries or by an atheromatous plate in the aorta at the origin of the coronary arteries.” It is a pity that such defects as we have indicated mar this work, which otherwise possesses so much merit.

**A Text-book of Obstetrics. By Barton Cooke Hirst. London: The Rebman Publishing Co. 1899.**

Like many of the modern American works on medicine, this book is exceedingly well illustrated. There are 653 illustrations in all, some rather superfluous, but most of them extremely helpful to an understanding of the text.

In his preface the author says that “his experience in obstetrical complications and operations has been exceptionally large. . . . He ventures to entertain the hope, therefore, that his training has fitted him for the preparation of a book which shall serve as a guide to undergraduate students and to physicians in active practice.” A careful perusal of the volume leads us to express the opinion that he is certainly justified in entertaining this hope. We have seldom read a work in which the information is so well up to date, so full, and yet, on the whole, so concise. Prolixity is the fault of most American writers, but cannot be charged against the present author.

In the chapter on abortion we are pleased to see that the author insists on the importance of making sure that the uterus is empty. He rightly recommends the use of the finger for this purpose; but, in his advocacy of the curette and ovum forceps in certain cases, it would have been well to have added a word of caution as to the risk of perforating the uterus.

The section on extra-uterine pregnancy is an excellent piece of work. Exception must, however, in our opinion, be taken to the statements that “the gravid tube is exquisitely tender,” that “before rupture it may sometimes be justifiable to wait,” and that after abdominal section “high fever and a greater mortality must be expected unless drainage be employed.” In his belief that ovarian and primary abdominal pregnancies occasionally occur, the author differs from the majority of modern gynaecologists.

Part II, on the physiology and management of labour and of the puerperium, will be very helpful to the general practi-
tioneer. Stress is rightly laid upon the importance of thorough disinfection of the hands and external genitals before every internal examination, and upon the inadvisability of the routine use of the douche. We cannot, however, agree with the author's exhortation to keep the patient rigidly on her back during the first week of the puerperium. Possibly this is the reason why he requires to use the catheter in 30 per cent of primiparæ.

In Part III, on the mechanism of labour, advantage is taken of the knowledge gained recently from the study of frozen sections.

The various hæmorrhages, ante- and post-partum, are carefully and clearly described in Part IV. Tamponade of the uterus is mentioned as the "surest and most reliable" means of controlling otherwise intractable post-partum hæmorrhage, and emphasis is laid upon the necessity of adding a simple transfusion apparatus to the contents of the obstetric bag. In the treatment of eclampsia, saline injections are recommended and pilocarpin condemned.

Part V is devoted to the pathology of the puerperium. The great progress made of late years in our knowledge of puerperal sepsis is shown by the fact that sixty pages are devoted to this subject alone. Elevation of temperature and rapidity of pulse are regarded as indicating puerperal infection, provided no other cause be demonstrable. The author is guarded in his opinion respecting anti-streptococcic serum, but advocates strongly the use of nuclein.

In the last two parts the subjects of "obstetrical operations" and "the new-born infant" are fully considered. The reader is advised to get not only the axis-traction forceps, but also a Simpson's and a short straight pair. Surely it would be much easier to carry about only the first-named, which is applicable for all cases.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the excellence of the type and the beauty of the illustrations. There are remarkably few printer's errors in the volume.

Operative Surgery. By JOSEPH D. BRYANT. Third Edition. Vol. I. London: Henry Kimpton. 1900.

This handsome volume possesses a preface which is extremely modest when one comes to learn the contents of the book. The twelve chapters which compose the volume deal with
operations on the nervous, bony, and muscular systems, ligation of arteries, amputations and plastic surgery, and with general considerations of operative work, such as the preparation of the patient, anaesthetics, and treatment of operation-wounds.

There are over 700 figures to illustrate the text, and a very complete index of these, with acknowledgment of their sources, is given at the beginning of the volume. A feature of the illustrations is the half-tone representations of the sets of instruments required for the various operations, while in the portion of the work dealing with the ligature of arteries, the anatomical diagrams are, on the whole, to be highly commended. One point in which the book is weak, is the reference in brackets to figures and pages, these references being very frequently given wrong.

In connection with anaesthetics, no reference is made to the pupillary reflex; while, on p. 18, Laborde's method of performing artificial respiration is fully given, and on the preceding page Sylvester's method is figured, but is not named, and is not mentioned in the text as such.

On p. 54 we are told that water at 118° F. "exercises an aseptic effect on the tissues;" what this means, we do not know. In Fig. 70 (p. 55) the arrangement of the rings, as given in the applied bandage, is impossible. The expression "washing off," as applied to the hands (p. 100), is not only bad English, but is meaningless. Examples of shaky grammar are found on pp. 104 and 109. In Fig. 177 the spermatic artery is represented as lying superficial to the fascia transversalis, and in Figs. 187 and 193 "perineal" is used instead of "peroneal."

The description of the anatomical relations of the vertebral artery, between the atlas and axis, is inaccurate (p. 152), and while in one paragraph we are told that the artery is reached, before entering the vertebral canal, by an incision usually behind the sterno-mastoid, the operation which is described is the route in front of that muscle (p. 151). On pp. 163 and 285 the relative positions of the tendons bounding the tabatière are given wrong; the extensor secundi internodii should be given as the inner boundary. In Fig. 216, the common carotid artery is misnamed "external," and in Fig. 219, the inferior oblique muscle is styled "superior" in the upper part of the figure.

An account of the collateral circulation following ligature of large vessels might have been given with advantage. "Cranii" (p. 199) is not the plural of cranium, nor is "spiculae"
that of spiculum (p. 409), while "illy" (p. 269) has a quaint look. The inferior oblique muscle is not usually held to obtain its nerve supply from the second cervical nerve.

The chapter on operations on the nervous system merits commendation, as likewise does the following chapter on tendons. While the subject of amputations is well dealt with in detail, we are surprised to find no mention of the method of compressing the aorta with the closed fist and straight elbow in connection with the amputation at the hip-joint.

The chapter on plastic surgery, which closes the volume, is exceedingly well done; and, in fact, the general quality of the work is such as to lead us to recommend it to the attention of anyone interested in the wide subject of operative surgery.

Minor Surgery and Bandaging. By Henry Wharton, M.D.
London: The Rebman Publishing Co., Limited. 1899.

When a book has reached a fourth edition, it must be taken for granted that it has fulfilled a felt want, and that its publication has been warranted. In the case of the present volume it is difficult to understand why.

The book is arranged in seven parts, which might be divided into three sections—thus, bandaging, minor surgery, operative surgery. Each of the sections is good in itself—in fact, that on bandaging is excellent, there being in this section nearly as many illustrations as there are pages, rendering the text easy to follow. The minor surgery section includes Parts II, III, and IV of the book, and is necessarily scrappy; a little of everything is given—from bacteriology to skiagraphy. The varieties and simple dressings are alone considered in fractures and dislocations; the illustrations here also are good. But why include operative surgery in a work on minor surgery and bandaging? Over a fourth of the book is taken up with this section. The author’s reason is "that as at the present time in our medical schools much more attention is paid to practical surgery—that is, operative procedures upon the cadaver—it has been thought advisable to introduce a very brief description of a number of operations which can, with advantage, be performed in the cadaver." The object is laudable, but it is difficult to see why a student should get Dr. Wharton’s book for operative surgery alone, or for bandaging alone, when there are so many works which treat of these subjects separately and cheaper,
and, moreover, when all can be got together fully described in a treatise on the principles and practice of surgery.

The printing and binding are such as we have been led to expect from this firm.

Optics: A Manual for Students. By G. S. Percival, M.A., M.B. London: Macmillan & Co., Limited. 1899.

This is a book written chiefly for the ophthalmic specialist, and we say at once that it is one of the most important additions to the literature of ophthalmology that has appeared of recent years.

Hitherto the student who wished to master this branch of medical study had recourse to such manuals as those of Preston, Heath, Glazebrook, and Aldis—all excellent and good books, but much too discursive for a special purpose. Here, however, in reasonable limits, we have all that is essential clearly and well put.

The book may, perhaps, be a little too advanced for elementary students, but must be invaluable to all teachers of the subject, and to those who in any real sense make ophthalmic practice a speciality. Its author more than maintains his high reputation.

System of Diseases of the Eye. By Norris and Oliver. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

The fourth and last volume of this large work has just been issued. The whole book may really be said to form an excellent and standard treatise in the English language of the entire subject.

The authors who have been selected to write the various articles are, for the most part, gentlemen of the highest standing. Thus, Javal writes the article on Ophthalmometry, Landolt that on Strabismus, and Priestly-Smith the one on Glaucoma.

Amongst the smaller contributors are Messrs. Norris and Oliver themselves. This is, perhaps, all the less to be regretted that the text-book which they wrote jointly some years ago was one of the worst that ever appeared, either in this or in any other language. Still, it is rather a pity that a book to which they have contributed so little should be known by their names.