epidermis. In none was there any affection of the central nervous system or of the circulatory system. In one case there was a history of peripheral neuritis due to alcoholism. The result in all three cases was distinct improvement and disappearance of the ulcer, but only for a time. The various methods of treatment of this trouble were then considered, and the results following nerve-stretching reported by others were given. The opinion was then expressed that if nerve-stretching were performed early enough, and if the patient were kept at rest a sufficiently long time, the results of this treatment might be more satisfactory, and that it ought to have at least a place in the treatment of perforating ulcers of the foot where there is no affection of the central nervous system or circulatory system.

Dr. Buist and the Chairman spoke on the paper, and Dr. Halley briefly replied.

Mr. Greig then read the first part of his paper on two years' experience in the surgical out-patient room of the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. He first dealt with fractures, explaining that the number treated was limited, and confined almost entirely to the upper extremity, because the majority were treated in the accident room. He gave in detail the number of fractures and the treatment he always adopted. He recommended the four-tailed bandage as against Sayers' method in the treatment of fracture of the clavicle. He then gave the number of cases of carbuncle treated, their situations, and the treatment adopted, and also of whitlow, of which the majority of his cases were in females. The number of cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea and soft sore was also given, and the treatment adopted.

---

REVIEW.

The Treatment of Lateral Curvature of the Spine. By Bernard Roth, F.R.C.S. London: H. K. Lewis. 1899.

The author of this monograph must be gratified to find that the views expressed by him in the first edition of his work, ten years ago, have been almost universally regarded as correct, and the treatment recommended by him practised.

The employment of a spinal support of some kind as a
routine treatment in any and every case of lateral curvature, independent of the nature or degree of the deformity, has been discarded in favour of the more rational treatment by posture and exercise; and yet it seems strange that, out of the one thousand consecutive cases mentioned by the author in an appendix and treated by him between the years 1885 and 1892, not one had been previously treated by exercises unless these were embraced under the term "massage," which, however, had only been employed in seventeen instances.

In only one group of cases does the writer recommend a support—in those exceptional cases where the curvature is due to paralysis of the erectors spinae muscles—and even in this comparatively rare group he is doubtful of its usefulness.

Re-education of the muscular sense of the best possible position combined with methodical exercises is the treatment recommended. There is little difference perhaps in the nature of the exercises from those recommended and practised by others; success in treatment depends largely upon their being daily carried out and under direct supervision.

Special emphasis is laid on the point that only in those cases where no osseous deformity of the ribs or vertebrae exists can a complete cure be got.

Analysis of the cases already referred to reveals some interesting facts. The amount of osseous deformity present in each case is given in a series of tables, and classified according to degree as extreme, severe, moderate, and a trace; the non-existence of osseous deformity forms only a small proportion. Fully 50 per cent of the cases had flat-foot to some extent. The various exercises required in a given case, the possible duration of treatment, the author's method of measurement, can best be got by a perusal of the book itself.

The type is large and easily read.

Diseases of the Skin: An Outline of the Principles and Practice of Dermatology. By Malcolm Morris. With 10 Coloured Plates and 26 Engravings. New and revised edition. London: Cassell & Co. 1898.

The first edition of this work appeared some four or five years ago, and has now been for some time out of print. Although, perhaps, dermatology is not advancing at the same speed as some of the other medical sciences, there is no doubt that text-books in almost all sciences begin to get old after five years or thereby, and it is very important that fresh
editions should appear from time to time. The text of the present volume has been revised, and a good deal of fresh matter has been added.

The arrangement of chapters is in the main the same as in the former edition, except that affections of the skin dependent on nerve disorders occupy seven chapters instead of five as before. To the eight coloured plates of the earlier edition two new ones have been added. One of these illustrates the fungi of ringworm, favus, tinea versicola, and erythrasma; and the other illustrates various pathogenic fungi and micro-organisms, and the filaria sanguinis hominis.

The work has increased in size by over thirty pages, but we may readily credit the author when he says that the difficulty has been to avoid adding so much as to change the character of the work. His name and reputation are a sufficient guarantee of its excellence.

Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Vol. XXIII
—Session 1897-98. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1898.

Of several excellent papers in this volume, the following deserve special mention:—

1. "Induction of Premature Labour," by Dr. John Moir. The author, who is the oldest medical practitioner in Edinburgh, thinks that the common method of rapidly forcing on labour during induction must be attended by a large foetal mortality. What he advocates is a daily slight dilatation of the cervix, and partial separation of the membranes. Operations are begun a week before the time the birth is desired to take place, and thus complete softening of the cervix is secured. He has had in all 72 cases, with a maternal mortality of 2.8 per cent, and a foetal mortality of 23.3 per cent.

2. "Leopold's Description of the Placenta," and "On the Cervix and the Attitude of the Foetus in Leopold's Sections," by Dr. A. H. F. Barbour. These are abstracts from Leopold's "Uterus und Kind," which Dr. Barbour, himself an eminent authority on the subject, characterises as "out of sight, the most important contribution which has yet been made to the Anatomy of Pregnancy." The first one describes a uterus and ovum at the end of the first week of pregnancy, obtained from a case of hysterectomy for cancer. This is the youngest ovum known. It shows, inter alia, that Berry Hart's theory regarding the mode of formation of the decidua reflexa is incorrect, because the decidua serotina is partially clothed with epithelium, while the reflexa is already almost completely
formed. Leopold is of opinion, from careful microscopic examination of the specimen, that the maternal blood circulates in the intervillous spaces, even at this early period; but Barbour regards the appearances as most probably due rather to blood extravasation. "The channel," he says, "must be built before the water finds its way along it, or the result is a marsh, not a stream."

There are many other points in these abstracts worthy of careful thought, but want of space forbids any mention of them. There is, however, one matter of practical importance, which is emphasised by Leopold in the description of a frozen section of a foetus in utero, turned for placenta prævia, but undelivered, viz., that, when the child's thigh is gripped by a rigid os, the breech does not get down on the placenta so as to arrest hæmorrhage. This is contrary to the usual teaching, and demands careful clinical observation, with a view to its confirmation or denial.

3. "The Occurrence of a Non-Allantoic or Vitelline Placenta in the Human Subject," by Dr. J. W. Ballantyne. In his dissection of a sireniform foetus the author discovered that the bladder and other parts formed from the allantois, and also the ductus venosus and hypogastric arteries, were absent, and that the placenta was supplied by a branch of the abdominal aorta. His arguments that the placenta of all such foetuses is vitelline are ingenious and convincing.

4. "Senile Uterine Catarrh," by Dr. J. Halliday Croom. This condition is symptomatically very like uterine cancer, and Dr. Croom urges that "a due appreciation of it would save many an unfortunate woman from vaginal hysterectomy."

Among other important papers in this volume, the following may be mentioned:—"Intra-uterine Typhoid," by Dr. W. Fordyce; "Notes on Four Cases of Cesarean Section," by Dr. R. Jardine; and "Toxaemia in Pregnancy," by Professor J. A. C. Kynoch.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. XVI. Edited by De Forest Willard, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan. 1898.

This volume, although in actual size not reaching beyond half those of the two years immediately preceding, contains not a little matter of considerable interest. From the papers contained in the Transactions for the past year, that by Senn is perhaps the one which is naturally singled out. Senn has set himself to extricate from a maze of unscientific and uncon-
gruous classifications the well-worn and important subject of cystitis. He discards many even of the more generally followed classifications of recent years, such as those of Guyon and Roosing, and at once predicates that “no classification is complete which does not indicate the anatomical location, clinical features, pathological characteristics, and bacteriological origin of the disease.” Thus, from the anatomical standpoint, he distinguishes (1) pericystitis, (2) paracystitis, (3) interstitial cystitis, and (4) endocystitis; from the pathological, (1) catarrhal, (2) suppurative, (3) ulcerative, (4) exudative, and (5) exfoliative cystitis; from the clinical, (1) acute, (2) chronic cystitis; and from the bacteriological, quite a number of varieties due respectively to the effects of staphylococcic, streptococcic, gonococcic, diplococcic, &c., action.

It is, indeed, a pleasure to have a workable and thoroughly scientific basis thus put forward, and it ought to give great assistance in the therapeutics of this most difficult and often baffling branch of surgery. There are also embodied in the volume two papers dealing with the “Treatment of Inoperable Malignant Tumours,” the one, discussing the subject generally, by G. R. Fowler, M.D., of New York; the other, by W. H. Richardson, M.D., of Boston, giving an account of a case of “apparently hopeless infiltration of left axilla and scapula by round-celled sarcoma in which, extirpation having been attempted and abandoned, extensive and severe wound infection was followed by disappearance of the tumour.”

These papers are interesting in themselves, but particularly so in view of what is, perhaps, to many, that containing most hopeful material, viz., “An Inquiry into the Etiology of Cancer, with some Reference to the Latest Investigations of the Italian Pathologists,” by Roswell Park, M.D., of Buffalo. In this paper the various theories which have from time to time had vogue amongst investigators and thinkers, popular and scientific, with regard to this subject, are shortly surveyed, and the general conclusions leave one little room of escape from the adoption of the “parasitic” theory, especially in the light of the successful cultivation by Sanfelice and Roncali—of the Universities of Cagliari (Sardinia) and Rome respectively—of species of blastomycetae from the growing portions of malignant tumours and subsequent inoculations of animals from such cultures, resulting in the production of “tumours strikingly analogous to, or identical with, those from which the cultures were made,” and even of metastases in various organs. Much contained in Park’s summary thus given is new to most, and this article amply repays a careful perusal.