its disappearance. Dr. Halley discussed the possibility of the rash being due to an idiosyncrasy on the part of the patient to the carbolic lotion with which it was dressed, and quoted several cases in which an erythema had followed the administration of drugs externally or internally. He considered, however, that it was more probably due to septic intoxication, and quoted similar cases in support of this view.

Mr. Greig then read notes of cases he had had under his care when eczema and erythema had followed the application of antiseptic dressings. He spoke of a case in which he had operated twice for the same complaint, using the same dressings, with an interval of several years between the operations. After the second operation delirium and erythema occurred. He considered that the erythema in these cases was due to the absorption of some toxic substance, but not due to sepsis.

REVIEW.

*Diseases of Women: a Text-book for Students and Practitioners.* By J. C. Webster, B.A., M.D. Edin. Illustrated with 241 Figures. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1898.

We have read this book with all the pleasure we anticipated when it was announced that a work on the diseases of women was about to appear from the pen of the accomplished author of *Ectopic Pregnancy.* We are of opinion that it is the best that has been written on the subject within recent years in the English language. It is addressed to students and practitioners, and both classes will find that it contains what they require. Specially admirable is the manner in which the author has succeeded (1) in giving prominence to the scientific basis of each subject under consideration; (2) in studying clinical features in their widest relationships, endeavouring to give them their proper proportional values; (3) in insisting upon caution in the adoption of therapeutic measures not yet thoroughly tested, especially of many of those which, in these latter days, have been hurriedly and recklessly forced into publicity (Preface). By constantly keeping these aims in view, the writer's account of the subject possesses unity and proportion of design and execution.
The book contains twenty-two chapters and an appendix on the explanation of menstruation. The first three chapters are devoted to anatomy; the following three to puberty, the nervous system in relation to pelvic disease, and the genital tract in relation to micro-organisms, respectively. Chapters VII, VIII, and IX deal with case-taking, minor therapeutic measures, and operative measures in general. The remaining sections concern affections of the peritoneum and cellular tissue, pelvic hæmatocoele and hæmatoma, affections of the Fallopian tubes, affections of the ovaries, affections of the uterus, displacements of the uterus, fibro-myoma uteri, carcinoma uteri, affections of the vulva, injuries and displacements of the pelvic floor, affections of the vagina and hymen, affections of the urethra and bladder, certain affections of the rectum.

The illustrations have been chosen with special reference to their teaching value, and have, for the most part, been made from original drawings by the author (Preface).

The third chapter—on the pelvic peritoneum and connective tissue—deserves careful perusal, for here the writer controverts—we think, on the whole, successfully—the commonly accepted views concerning the pelvic floor, especially those associated with the names of Hart and Symington. Relying on original, mostly dissectional, investigations, Dr. Webster demonstrates the prime importance of the various layers of the pelvic connective tissue in supporting and maintaining the relative positions of the pelvic organs. He returns to the attack in the section on prolapse of the uterus, which, conformably to his theory, he ranks under displacements of the pelvic floor (Chapter XIX). Readers will value the clear and intelligible account of a subject generally regarded as somewhat obscure.

Dr. Webster is inclined to attach great importance to the rôle of reflex neuroses in pelvic disease. He makes bold to say that, "taking all sorts and varieties of dysmenorrhœa into consideration, it is the factor which is most common to all, which requires most careful attention, and in many cases sole attention" (p. 141); and he reasserts this view even in the chapter on pyosalpinx, observing (p. 354) that it has been noted in a good many cases that the patient is no better after the operation (oöphorosalpingectomy). While fully admitting the existence of neurotic conditions, we think the first statement exaggerated and the second based on a faulty inference. Operation is often unsuccessful, not because a neurotic condition is overlooked, but because our author's mechanical gynaecologists frequently fail to perceive that in a given case their task is not to perform one or other of the so-called typical
gyneacological operations, but to remove the disease. A double pyosalpinx may be excised, and the patient remain as before, or gradually sink into neurotic invalidism. It is more than likely, however, that she is simply continuing to suffer from an infective metritis, which, by a process closely allied to chronic septicaemia, reduces her to her abject condition. On the other hand, in the success which often attends the isolation treatment (with massage, &c.), the a thoro element is probably quite as important as the a mensa.

The section on inflammation of the uterus is the least satisfactory in the book. Too little is made of gonorrhoea, and the distinction between bacterial and non-bacterial endometritis is not sufficiently emphasised. It would be better, too, if diseases of the Fallopian tubes were considered in conjunction with or immediately after those of the uterus, for these structures are really one organ. The chapter on displacements of the uterus is commendable for its brevity and its sanity, and the same may be said of the paragraphs on menstrual anomalies in the chapter on puberty. It is, indeed, one of the features of the book that the space allotted to a subject is determined by its importance. The principle of proportional values is everywhere observed.

The paragraphs relating to the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of the various affections are carefully written, particular attention being given to therapeutic details. Operative measures are judiciously discussed, and a tight rein kept on those fantastic manœuvres which have bewitched the gynæcological world, whose merit mainly consists in the ease with which they are devised and the facility of their execution.

Readers will probably turn with expectancy to the explanation of menstruation offered in the appendix. The chapter must be read in its entirety before one can fully appreciate the point of view and general argument adopted by Dr. Webster. His conclusions, briefly, are:—The menstrual function is a highly specialised means, gradually produced, in the evolution of the highest mammals, by which the two great factors in tissue metabolism—the anabolic and katabolic—are properly balanced. The rhythmical character of the menstrual function has probably been gradually determined by the forces of evolution, and the marked range of variations which it presents in the human female (unassociated with pathological conditions) points very strongly to an early period of irritability in the process, preceding its present fairly fixed habit. It is, indeed, impossible for us to think of a rational explanation for the peculiarities which are found except on the ground of
biological variations—atavistic reminiscences. The menstrual function, then, being closely correlated with the well recognised sexual characters, is, like them, undoubtedly closely related to a nervous regulating mechanism, the nature of which is unknown as yet (pp. 666, 667). The relation of the uterus to the ovary “is that of two separate departments of an army, each of whose work must be thoroughly accomplished before the one common object can be attained. They are both controlled by branches from the sympathetic system, and instead of their actions being determined by each other, their orders come from that higher power which controls all functional activity.”

A noticeable feature of the book, for which we are grateful, is the absence of references. In the copious index which completes the work, there is no mention of sterility; the discretion of the author is equally shown in what he has omitted. The publisher has done his part well. The typography is good; the illustrations are excellent. Clerical errors are so few that it seems ungracious to refer to them. We cordially recommend the book to all students and practitioners of medicine.

Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London. Volume XXXIX: Part IV (October, November, and December, 1897).

In this part of the London Obstetrical Society’s Transactions there appear four papers of special interest and importance.

1. “On the Management of True and False Capsules in Ovariotomy,” by Mr. Alban Doran. False capsules the author divides into two classes—(a) the false capsule “that consists of inflammatory deposit, mesentery, and omentum”; (b) the false anatomical capsule formed by the layers of the broad ligament separated in its lowermost part. True capsules the author describes as those formed “by the mesosalpinx,” “the lower part of the broad ligament not being opened.” The treatment of the false capsule is simply separation of the adhesions. The management of the false anatomical and true capsule is discussed under the three heads—(1) “Should the capsule be cut away?” (2) “Should it be let fall back into the pelvis?” (3) “Should it be stitched to the abdominal wound?” Conclusions of author are that first method should be adopted when possible and if capsule healthy, second when first impossible and capsule healthy, third when capsule shows advanced inflammatory changes associated with suppuration.
of tumour. Author also reports a case where last method was adopted, and sac plugged with iodoform gauze; iodoform poisoning occurred. Symptoms of such an occurrence are referred to.

2. "On Abdominal Hysterectomy for Myoma of the Uterus, with brief notes of Twenty-eight Cases," by Mr. J. Bland Sutton. The author does not recommend pan-hysterectomy, chiefly because of the danger of injuring the ureters when the cervix is removed. The stump is treated subperitoneally, and when possible the tubes and ovaries are left behind. A short synopsis of each case is given. Two of the patients died. The discussion of the paper by the Fellows of the Society, to judge by the report, was as animated as it was interesting.

3. "Three Cases of Pyometra complicating Cancer of Cervix Uteri," by Dr. W. H. Tate. A full description of these cases is given along with a brief review of previously reported ones. Some conclusions arrived at are the following:—It occurs in about 6 per cent of cases of carcinoma of cervix. It is more common when the disease attacks the organ some time after the menopause. The pus that escapes is extremely foetid. The removal of the uterus is difficult, and the danger of septic peritonitis supervening great. The author strongly advocates the non-closing of the vault of the vagina after removal of uterus in all cases of vaginal extirpation of the organ. All the author's cases recovered.

4. "The Obstruction of Labour by Ovarian Tumours in the Pelvis," by Dr. B. G. M'Kerrow. This paper is an analysis of 183 reported instances of this complication, along with two described for the first time by the author. The various methods of treatment are discussed. A carefully prepared table, giving a brief summary of all these 183 cases and the treatment adopted, accompanies the paper.

Besides these papers referred to, many other most interesting cases are reported, but space unfortunately does not permit of a description.

Medical Diagnosis. By J. J. Graham Brown, M.D. Fourth Edition. Edinburgh: William F. Clay. 1897.

There are now so many excellent books on medical diagnosis that one tends to look on even a "new edition" as de trop. That, however, cannot hold in regard to the work at present before us, which, for its size and scope, is one of the best on the subject that we know of.
This new edition has been brought quite up to date, and, indeed, there is very little throughout its pages to which one can take much exception. We might possibly suggest that in the chapter on the blood, the author does not throw much light on the "confusion as to the nomenclature of the different forms of leucocytes." What exactly does he mean by a "myelocyte," and what is its relation to the "hyaline" and the "coarsely granular basophile cell?" We were not aware that corpuscles which could be called "myelocytes" are to be "seen in the blood in large numbers in cases of pernicious anæmia." We think, too, that white blood corpuscles are better stained by eosine and methylene-blue than by Erlich's stain.

An error is noted on p. 406, where it is stated that the "graphic-motor centre" lies in the third left frontal convolution. The adjoining diagram shows the true version—the centre in the second frontal convolution.

We think that in dealing with the "sensory functions" some indication should have been given of the course of the various sensory fibres—e.g., in the spinal cord. Without a knowledge of this the student cannot localise the lesion which produces loss of the senses of pain and temperature, while that of touch remains intact.

The style of the book is clear and incisive, and, indeed, quite one of its charms. A word must likewise be said in praise of the numerous illustrations throughout the text.

Essentials of Experimental Physiology. By T. G. Brodie, M.D. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1898.

This book, containing two hundred and twenty-six pages, forms a suitable companion volume to the Essentials of Professors Schäfer and Halliburton, with which it is uniform in size and appearance. The arrangement of the work is based on the syllabus issued to members of the class of advanced practical physiology held at King's College by Prof. Halliburton. The diagrams, numbering one hundred and seventy-seven, many of which are new, include numerous reproductions of tracings which are altogether new, and taken from tracings specially executed for this work. Plate II, showing a tracing of the blood-pressure and respiratory movements during asphyxia, excels anything we have seen in works of this class.

The greater part of the book is devoted to the electro-
physiology of nerve and muscle. We think that the space of eight pages allocated to the eye is somewhat scant; Priestly Smith's perimeter is figured, but there is no notice taken of M'Hardy's instrument, a much more easily and accurately wrought apparatus. A lesson on Frost's artificial eye might have been included with advantage. There is no mention of the stethoscope or laryngoscope—an exercise on these instruments would have been beneficial to junior students.

The work is clearly written, the descriptions of experiments being particularly lucid, more so than in several other works of this class. The account of the more fundamental experiments, of primary importance to beginners, is printed in bolder type than the other parts of the book.

On the whole, we are highly pleased with the book. We are of opinion that it will be of undoubted service to students preparing for the higher examinations in physiology. To all such we heartily commend it.

Autoscopy of the Larynx and the Trachea. By Alfred Kirstein, M.D., Berlin. Translated and Enlarged by Max Thorner, A.M., M.D., Cincinnati, O. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co. 1897.

The method which has been misnamed "Autoscopy of the Larynx" must be already known to the regular readers of current medical literature, and we regret that our notice of this book has been inadvertently delayed. Dr. Kirstein, to whom we are indebted for the conception and development of autoscopy, describes here its technique, and stoutly defends its claims against would-be detractors. This method, which might more appropriately be termed orthoscopy, allows of direct inspection of the lower pharynx, the larynx, and the trachea, when the base of the patient's tongue is drawn downwards and forwards by means of a special depressor. The advantages of a direct view of the interior of the larynx, and of being able to manipulate in this region without the intervention of a mirror, are manifest. Unfortunately this ideal method is impracticable in many persons from anatomical causes. The author, with his great experience—and considerable practice is required by all who desire to obtain dexterity—succeeds in getting a good view of the posterior wall of the larynx in about two-thirds of all his cases. We ourselves can testify to the value of Kirstein's procedure in examining and
treated disease in the posterior parts of the larynx, and we think that its future application will be chiefly in this direction. When the morbid condition is situated more anteriorly, however, the laryngoscope will be almost always indispensable. Dr. Thorner's translation is excellent.

**Injuries and Diseases of the Ear.** By Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S. London: The Rebman Publishing Co., Limited. 1897.

This little book contains half a dozen papers which have already appeared in medical journals. The subjects dealt with are:
- On an Artificial Membrana Tympani
- Foreign Bodies in the Ear and their Treatment
- What not to do in Diseases of the Ear
- The use of the Pneumatic Aural Speculum
- On the Care of the Ear in Children
- Aural Reflexes

These papers are written in a clear and pleasant style, and general practitioners will find in them useful advice. We would take exception to one or two of the examples of aural reflexes described, believing that other explanations are more probable.

**Selected Essays and Monographs.** Translations and Reprints from Various Sources. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1897.

The Sydenham Society is to be congratulated upon the selection of essays and monographs contained in this volume. The essays cover a wide range of subjects, mostly of great pathological and clinical interest, though necessarily of varying importance. Of first rate importance among them we would place Bruhl's contribution to the Study of Syringomyelia, and, from the historical point of view, Maxwell's Observations upon Yaws. The first of these papers is remarkable for the minuteness of its detail, and the second has been greatly enhanced in value by the addition of coloured plates from Hutchinson's collection. We have read with interest Fournier's paper on Syphilis and General Paralysis. On the whole we have not been much impressed with his arguments in favour of the preponderating etiological significance of syphilis in the production of general paralysis. It is the paper of a syphilographer through and through, and lacks the
breadth of view necessary to the discussion of the subject. There are two essential weak points in the thesis—the one is the use of the term "pseudo-paralysis," the other is the inclusion of general paralysis among the so-called "para-
syphilitic disorders." The use of such terms are, in the sense they are here employed, mere covers for ignorance; they tell us nothing that we did not know before as well as Fournier can tell us; they serve to obscure the broad and philosophic issues involved in the discussion of the question; and they convey a meaning, if we may say so a *pseudo-knowledge*, which is quite at variance with the true scientific spirit. We have the same objections to the term Para-syphilitic Epilepsy, the subject of another paper. It is only a syphilographer—and Fournier is one of the greatest, to whose labours we owe much—who could thus read syphilis into the etiology of such diseases in a manner that would never suggest itself to the general physician. We commend the study of the articles to our readers for the novelty, if not for the scientific value, of the views they propound.

*Transactions of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, Vol. XV. Edited by John B. Story, M.B., F.R.C.S. Dublin: Fannin & Co. 1897.*

The present volume testifies to the vigour of the Dublin school. As a sign of the times we note that two of the communications are by a woman, Dr. E. Winifred Dickson.

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**ABSTRACTS FROM CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.**

**NERVOUS DISEASES AND INSANITY.**

By Dr. R. S. STEWART.

Cheyne-Stokes Respiration of absolutely regular cycle with Modifications of the Pupils parallel to the Respiratory Movements, and regularly intermittent Anaesthesia of the Face in the whole sphere of the Trifacial. By Terrien (*Le Progrès Médical*, 8th January, 1898).—The case here recorded, that of a man of 64 suffering from cerebral and cardiac disease, presents some very interesting