of formalin (20 per cent formaldehyde); but he feared a possible chronic poisoning from constant use of such preserved milk.

Dr. Barras, in reply, said that boiling of the milk must always be preferable to the addition of antiseptics. He would not give up feeding a child during the night; that could scarcely be done till the child was about eight months old. Many of the foods he mentioned were malted foods; he doubted if the proportion of grape sugar was as great as had been said by one of the speakers. One which he had not named he had found to be of excellent service, namely, Horlick's malted milk.

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REVIEW.

A Manual of Hygiene for Students and Nurses. By John Glaister, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.). Illustrated by Seventy Drawings. London: The Scientific Press, Limited. 1897.

The study of sanitary science, and the practical application of its doctrines to the welfare of the community, constitute one of the most striking signs of the progress which has marked the long and beneficent reign of our gracious Sovereign. Our improved knowledge of the laws of health has enabled us greatly to limit, if not entirely to put an end to, the ravages of epidemic disease; our towns and villages have been rendered cleaner, and enabled to enjoy more of the blessings of fresh air and sunlight; and the poor, who are always with us, have the benefit of healthier homes and purer food. Our hospitals are no longer subjected to the dire outbreaks of pyæmia which decimated the surgical wards of former days, and sick men, women, and children now enjoy the privilege of medical and surgical treatment in airy wards, a privilege which is often not participated in by the wealthier members of the community. This is a great work for hygiene to have accomplished. The literature of sanitation, too, is now enormous, ranging from the bulky text-book for the expert to the manual for the ordinary reader, for nowadays no one is regarded as having completed a liberal education who has not attained to some knowledge of the laws of health.

Dr. John Glaister has for many years been well known in
Glasgow as an enthusiastic teacher and student of sanitary science. The present volume will do much to enhance his reputation as a lucid exponent of its laws and doctrines. It is no easy task to select from a science, so wide in its range, the parts of it which are fundamental and of the first importance to the beginner. This has been the object of the author in writing the volume before us, and we have no hesitation in saying that he has accomplished his task well. Indeed, we are surprised that he has been able to compress within the compass of some two hundred and eighty pages so much important information upon the ventilation, heating and drainage of our houses, the necessity for and the modes of obtaining a pure water supply, personal hygiene, sewage disposal, preventable diseases, disinfection, and isolation hospitals. Indeed, it seems to us that there is scarcely a department of sanitary science upon which he has not touched, and generally in a manner quite sufficient for the requirements of the beginner.

The book is readable from beginning to end, and we can most heartily commend it to medical students and nurses as as a reliable manual.

The Living Substance; as Such and as Organism. By Gwendolen Foulke Andrews. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1897.

This curious essay is an ambitious, but not altogether successful, attempt to expound a theory of life in an aphoristic manner. Although Mrs. Andrews persuades herself that she has carried out her work effectively, and simplified matters by expressing herself in what he calls a "unified terminology," her composition is so obscure and far-fetched that her own prediction will undoubtedly prove true that there "will be few who will read with patient thought the long and minute record of selected facts in the foregoing pages." A single diagram is the only pictorial product of her self-described "exceptionally far-sighted eyes, having great range and swiftness of accommodation." And instead of comparing her own ideas with those of other writers on the same subject, a familiar and instructive way of rendering one's meaning and position clear, she avoids reference to all other works except Butschle's epoch-making work on Protoplasma. Nor does she allude to or give her opinion in regard to the origin of life, an essential point to the proper understanding of anyone's views in regard
to the nature of life. Her chief object seems to be to show that the present standpoint from which we view living beings, while in a certain sense right and necessary, is, properly speaking, not the scientific standpoint. In this regard she is probably right. She believes that the adult individual is only a phase of the living substance as organism, and not essential to it as such. The prominence given to the individual only vitiates our conception of the nature of the living substance. The flower is for the seed, not the seed for the flower. She justly complains of "the simple, unconscious anthropomorphism of all our mental processes which makes this so natural a first standpoint." In biology, as well as in other sciences, advancement has partly depended upon our emancipating ourselves from the anthropomorphic point of view. The corpuscle, and not the adult individual, is the true biological unit, yet no work in biology properly realises this conception, even although its truth is assumed. Mrs. Andrews substitutes for the term corpuscle the "living substance as such," and remarks that corpuscular phenomena have been erroneously interpreted, especially in regard to the true nature of division. She regards cell areas as presenting a curious repetition of parts, and the cell walls as merely adventitious filamentous divisions through which the living substance penetrates or extends without virtual break. Her disregard of the true nature of the cell theory detracts much from the value of her speculations. In no department of biology, she points out, has the error of regarding the adult specific form as the basis of research been so greatly committed as in speculations regarding the doctrine of heredity; that is, in the explanation of the likeness of nearly related individuals, and especially of individuals in the same line in succession, such as offspring and parent. Mrs. Andrews grasps the logical distinction between the likeness between parent and offspring, and how the likeness between them is caused. The idea of heredity assumes, nay, even postulates, that the one gets its likeness from the other. Assumptions are dangerous, both in science and philosophy. There is no evidence of any transmission through germ and sperm cells; but if there be such a transmission it must necessarily be through these cells. While the uncritical thought of mankind has always accepted some conception of hereditary transmission, it has always been doubted or denied by critical philosophy. Further, the idea existed before those cells were discovered, which evidence shows must be implicated in the process. Biologists find that this fact occasions physical difficulties, and physicists maintain that transmission is a
Abdominal Surgery. By J. Greig Smith, M.A., F.R.S.E.
Sixth Edition, in Two Volumes. Edited by James Swain, M.S., M.D. With 224 Illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill. Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith. 1897.

This work on abdominal surgery has enjoyed such a large circulation that within a year another edition has been called for. During that time, as Dr. Swain remarks in his preface, "the master-hand was called away, and the surgical world suffered the loss of one who had no small share in raising the surgery of the abdomen to its present high position." With the issue of the fifth edition much fresh material was introduced, and throughout the book there was abundant evidence of careful and judicious revision, but in this edition very little change in the text has been made, so that it may be regarded as practically a reprint of the fifth edition.

The first volume is divided into six sections. The first, occupying sixty pages, deals with the diagnosis of abdominal tumours, and is the least satisfactory section in the whole book. Probably this is accounted for by the difficulties which present themselves to the surgeon in discussing in a general way the diagnoses of abdominal diseases. These maladies, perhaps from their special difficulties, require, above all others, to be considered in conjunction with all the facts of an individual case. To generalise is difficult; still, as far as possible, the author has endeavoured to lay before his readers the main facts and considerations required in forming a diagnosis. The second section is devoted to abdominal operations considered generally, and occupies over ninety-one pages. Here we have a very carefully written and well considered article. The author's classification and nomenclature are remarkably good, and might with great advantage be generally adopted. The careless use of such terms as "gastrotomy," "laparotomy," and "abdominal section," as employed by many writers, must be condemned as incorrect and misleading.

The third section, of one hundred and twenty-one pages,
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deals with operations upon the ovaries, the Fallopian tubes, and broad ligaments. This is one of the most important sections in the book; it has to do with the most extensive departments of abdominal surgery, the part, indeed, in which the early triumphs of modern abdominal surgery were gained. In the fourth section, of eighty-eight pages, operations on the non-gravid uterus are discussed, while in the fifth section, of ninety-two pages, those adopted for the gravid uterus and for ectopic gestation are fully described. In the sixth section one hundred and twenty-four pages are devoted to operations on the stomach. This completes the first volume; the second begins with a section of one hundred and twelve pages, devoted to probably the least satisfactory and least successful department of abdominal surgery, namely, that which has to deal with diseases and injuries to the intestine. This department, although wide in its range and full of possibilities, has not advanced at the same rate as other branches of abdominal surgery. In this particular field of work not only is great skill and care required in the technical part of his work, but the surgeon also requires great judgment and experience to decide aright the best method of saving life in each individual case. It may be truly said that no two cases are exactly the same.

The eighth section deals with operations upon the kidneys and the ureters, and to this section one hundred and ten pages is given. The most important part is devoted to the surgery of the kidneys, while to that of the comparatively recently developed surgery of the ureters ten pages are considered sufficient. The remaining seven sections treat of abdominal operations on the urinary bladder, operations on the liver, the gall-bladder, and the biliary ducts; on the spleen, the pancreas, growths of the omentum, mesentery, peritoneum, and the parietes; operations for abdominal injury, and those for peritonitis and its effects.

Under each of the sections the author carefully and systematically goes over the surgical anatomy of the parts, he then gives the history of the operations, and points out the conditions for which the operation may be performed, he discusses the diagnosis of the disease, gives the indications for operation, and describes the method of operating. Such is the general scheme of the book, and in carrying it out the author has been most successful. His power of description is particularly good and his judgment sound, but his ability in contending points of controversy is not so marked. The book being a work on surgery, perhaps it is not right to be over-
critical on points of pathological interest only, but the mode of classification adopted throughout seems to us peculiar. The diseases are not described in order according to the nature of the lesion present, but they are arranged under the heading of the operation which may be required for their relief. Does this not seem rather an artificial method?

The author has adopted Mr. Reginald Harrison's classification of tumours of the kidney, which, although it may be useful from a clinical aspect, is most unscientific, and certainly would never be accepted by a pathologist.

For example, tumours of the kidney are divided into two great classes—those of "congenital origin" and those that are "post-congenital." Under the former head we have such dissimilar lesions as sarcoma, cystic disease, hydronephrosis, cavernous tumours; and under the latter all other conditions which lead to an increase in the bulk of the kidney are included—neoplasms, fluid accumulations, inflammatory new formations, and specific growths. The pathology is the only weak part of the book; the statistics, the bibliography, and the illustrations are all that could be desired. Every new method of treatment has been introduced and carefully described, the steps of new operations are given with great clearness, and the author has shown much judgment in indicating those that are worthy of being adopted in surgical practice. He has given us a compendium on abdominal surgery which no student of the subject can afford to do without; the book well deserves the great success which has been accorded to it.

A Surgical Handbook for the Use of Students, Practitioners, House Surgeons, and Dressers. By Francis M. Caird, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.), and Chas. W. Cathcart, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Eng. and Ed.) London: Charles Griffin & Co., Limited. 1897.

This is the eighth edition, "revised throughout," of the well-known pocket manual, "Caird and Cathcart," as it is familiarly called by the many students it has served. Many old diagrams are excluded, but their places have been more than filled, and the text correspondingly added to, so that although the pocket size of the book cannot yet be said to have been exceeded, yet it is drawing dangerously near the limit. A line will certainly require to be drawn very soon, else its sphere will be widened indefinitely. One cannot but think, too, that in its scope it
includes many subjects quite without the proper sphere which its title would indicate. Such subjects, e.g., as urine testing and analysis, sick-room receipts, &c., though very useful, would more appropriately come into another class of work altogether. Still, one should not grumble, perhaps, at the surfeit of good things, but rather be grateful for the same. The best parts of the work, as in earlier editions, are still those dealing with treatment of fractures, and the applications of bandages and splints; their utility and lucidity is very largely due to the free assortment of diagrams illustrative of the methods of application, and, indeed, in many cases the diagrams, even without the letterpress, give a very good idea of the particular method. The chapter upon electricity, and its uses and application in medicine, is clear and explicit, and, as such, will be welcome to not a few.

One can imagine that the work, complete as it is now, will be of value to the student, mainly from the point of view of fractures and their treatment, and the other portions of the book will be much more welcome to the general practitioner.

Some Points in the Anatomy, Pathology, and Surgery of Intussusception. By D'Arcy Power, M.A., M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.S. Eng. London: The Rebman Publishing Company, Limited. 1898.

The author's apology for the work which he has presented on the somewhat well-worn subject of intussusception seems necessary only to one who has not perused this small volume of eighty odd pages. Its careful study will give a good deal of satisfaction to many who, despite multitudinous contributions to the literature of the subject, still find much—very much—of the mystical about such a subject. The author has divided his work into three parts, the first dealing with "Some Points in the Minute Anatomy of Intussusception;" the second embodying a survey of "The Pathology of Intussusception," as viewed from the standpoint of anatomical, physiological, pathological, and clinical data; the third treating pretty fully of the whole subject of "Treatment," surgical and otherwise.

Perhaps the most notable portion of the work is the descriptive portion of the first chapter above referred to, and probably the least praiseworthy is the illustrative portion of the same. The pictures presented by the description of the minute histology of specimens collected from many sources as
typical instances of the various forms of intussusception, are, on the whole, very good, and the particular changes produced at different stages in the various coats of the bowel affected are well discussed, but the illustrations, mainly photo-micrographic, perhaps partly from the, in many cases, advanced condition of necrosis of parts involved, are, indeed, disappointingly unsatisfactory. One cannot help thinking that, unless a photo-micrograph can be reproduced with some degree of definition and precision, one is better served by recourse to the time-honoured, if by some regarded as antiquated, diagram. The photo-micrographs are, indeed, a blot on the otherwise generally admirable features of the work.

The experimental tests described in the second chapter have not, indeed, been productive of much positive good result, but they are at least well described, and establish in some cases a satisfactory negative.

Opinions are so varied upon the subject of the treatment of intussusception, that any discussion of this cannot be much more than a survey of the chief views, with perhaps an indication of the leanings of the author, as justified in his own mind from his own experience, Such is, indeed, the character of the third chapter. Two points which the author lays particular stress on are worthy of mention:—

1. Even in doubtful cases, purgatives must be completely withheld—as a result both of experiment and clinical experience it has been found that a fatal issue is very much more probable after operation upon a patient previously treated by purgation.

2. In operative treatment, “hardly a case can arise, in which the surgeon is justified in closing the abdominal wound without at least attempting to complete the operation by reducing or removing the intussusception. Such half measures as the formation of an artificial anus are very rarely justifiable, for the results obtained from them are generally most disastrous.”

Spinal Caries. By Noble Smith, F.R.C.S. Ed., L.R.C.P. Lond. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1897.

To quote the author of this work—“The most experienced surgeon may have a difficulty in determining the real nature of the case, not only in the very early stages, but even when the disease has made considerable progress, for it sometimes happens that the signs commonly or exceptionally attributed
to caries are absent, or that other symptoms mask those pertaining to this disease." That this view of the extremely uncertain diagnosis of caries has evidently weighed heavily upon the author is very plainly seen in a perusal of his work. How far this may be due to the somewhat loose method of classifying—"at least as far as symptoms," and "as being also of an inflammatory nature"—"various forms of traumatic injury, strains, contusions, partial fractures, and inflammatory affections following severe illnesses and causing much pain," under the head generally of "Spinal Caries," may be a matter for individual opinion, but from most points of view—diagnostic, prophylactic, and therapeutic—it seems very questionable. One is by no means prepared to admit the general truth of the assertion, which the author quotes, that caries affecting the atlas and axis is due, at least in a preponderating proportion of cases, to syphilis, any more than that in this region it is rarer now than formerly, on account of no longer being allowed to "run on unchecked" or "being too freely treated with mercury."

In dealing with the difficulties in diagnosing caries from some closely allied affections, there is, again, a good deal of looseness in the method of classification. After carefully describing a case of so-called carcinoma simulating caries, a small note is added, merely *en passant*, to the effect that at the time of the original description, "distinction between carcinoma and sarcoma was not recognised."

In a somewhat lengthy section the author quotes a number of fairly instructive cases as illustrating the frequent obscurity of symptoms in caries, but why spoil the generally good effect of the section by including under this head one case entitled, "Necrosis of a Lumbar Vertebra," and another of so-called "Spinal Periostitis with Tetanic Spasms?"

Surely the description of the former case would at once suggest the idea rather of acute septic osteomyelitis, and the autopsy, revealing, as it did, purulent foci in lungs, joints, &c. —the whole illness observed for seven days—all the facts point to the justice of this view.

The latter case, which the author puts down as probably syphilitic, certainly responded to antispecific remedies, and its inclusion here raises again the question as to the author's reason for mixing up such widely divergent types, when, as shown in the chapter dealing specially with symptoms, we see quite plainly that the picture or pictures presented to us are taken almost exclusively from cases of true spinal caries or tubercular disease of vertebral column.
The chapter, dealing with symptoms and diagnosis, is unquestionably the best part of the book. As to the chapter on treatment, many of its features are good, but in the portion dealing with the use and means of adaptation of the metal splint, one fails to find stated at all accurately the conditions under which such should be applied, its gross weight, and the general effects of such a cumbrous apparatus upon a weakly patient. As to operative treatment of abscess following or accompanying caries, one may question the wisdom of the conclusion arrived at by the author as the result of experience, viz., that the best method of treating such cases is by evacuation and subsequent daily irrigation. All surgical experience, we had thought, went to prove the opposite.

The illustrative portion of this work is by no means the least satisfactory, and this is specially the case in the large number of outline diagrams; these, indeed, giving merely outline sketches of spinal deformities, varieties, and degrees are strikingly instructive. The reproductions from photographs are less so.

*Diseases of the Ear, Nose, and Throat, and their Accessory Cavities: a Condensed Text-book.* By Seth Scott Bishop, M.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company. 1897.

Medical text-books are usually written on one of two plans: either the various parts are treated according to their relative importance, and the generally accepted views are expressed; or the author makes the work an embodiment of his own observations and deductions, in which case there is an inclination to give undue prominence to certain matters, while others—perhaps not less important—are dismissed in a perfunctory manner.

The author has here adopted both plans in part. While the work is primarily intended for the student and general practitioner, several sections have been written in considerable detail, so as to be of value to the specialist. We are of opinion, however, that loss of proportion is undesirable in elementary text-books, for often what the specialist gains is at the student’s expense. As illustrating this, we might refer to hay fever, which occupies here nearly thirty pages, while nasal polypus is disposed of in one and a half.

A long article is devoted to compressed air appliances and their uses, most of which will be new to European specialists.
The compressed air is utilised not only in the production of sprays, but in the treatment of ear affections. It is to supplant Politzer's bag; and the catheter "is destined to pass out of vogue to a certain extent, for the reason that air, volatile medicaments, and even fluid vaselin spray, can be successfully projected into the middle ear by means of the inflator adapted to the high pressure apparatus. To the average patient this is a happy culmination of the inventor's efforts, for it averts positive suffering, the possibility of infection and of irritative effects, and incidentally minimises the amount of skill required for treatment."

The section on the surgical treatment of mastoid disease is specially good. Hay fever is considered by the author to be due to an excess of uric acid in the blood, and he has succeeded in breaking up the morning attacks of sneezing and nasal stenosis by doses of acid at bedtime and on first awaking in the morning.

In some places the author is not up to date. The chapter on diseases of the accessory cavities is very imperfect and antiquated, and should be completely rewritten for the next edition; those on syphilis are also unsatisfactory.

In spite of the shortcomings mentioned, the volume will prove a welcome guide to the student and busy practitioner on account of its eminently practical character.

Handbuch der Gynäkologie. Herausgegeben von J. Veit. I u. II Band. Wiesbaden: Verlag von J. F. Bergmann. 1897. (Handbook of Gynaecology. Edited by J. Veit. Vols. I and II. Glasgow: F. Bauermeister. 1897.)

This promises to be by far the most important gynaecological work of the time. It has already been extensively reviewed in appropriate journals (e.g., Monatschrift f. Geburtshülfe u. Gynäk., May-June, 1897). Here we can only give a synopsis of its contents, and point to some of the more salient features.

Vol. I includes Asepsis and Antisepsis in Gynaecology, by Löhrlein; Anomalies of Position and Mobility of the Uterus, by Küstner; Diseases of the Vagina, by Veit; Gonorrheal Affections of the Female Urinary and Sexual Organs, by Bumm; Development and Developmental Anomalies of the Female Genitalia by Nogel.

The position of the uterus is determined, according to Küstner, by (1) the degree of distension of the bladder and
rectum; (2) gravitation; (3) the action of the muscular fibres in and beneath the mesometrium. The last is by far the most important factor, and the one which constantly tends to keep the uterus in the normal position of anteversio-flexio. Following Mackenrodt, Küstner ascribes a powerful action to the muscular fibres passing between the cervix and fascia pelvis and their extensions backwards under Douglas' folds and forwards to the bladder. The round ligament also is a most important agent. Being firmly attached for a considerable distance to peritoneum, every short segment of it may serve as a punctum fixum and allow the ligament to act upon the fundus uteri. Küstner marvels that so little value is usually ascribed to it, a view which should please some of our townsmen.

The normal position of the uterus is one of anteversio-flexio; hence that term has no place in pathology. So-called anteflexion pessaries belong to the past.

Schultze's parametritis posterior, which was supposed to cause fixation of the uterus, is most frequently, if not always, due to intraperitoneal inflammatory processes.

Retroversion and retroflexion are treated at considerable length. The immediate cause is relaxation of the supporting ligaments, a view by no means universally held, and recently controverted by Chrobak and Rosthorn. Operative treatment is indicated where pessaries are useless or unsuitable. Küstner prefers Alexander's operation, with the inevitable modification. Vaginofixation is practically condemened.

Nearly one hundred pages are devoted by Bumm to a consideration of gonorrhoea in women, and few parts of the great Handbuch are more instructive. It is now placed beyond doubt that, at least, 15 per cent of all gynaecological cases are directly due to gonorrhoea. What is not so well known is that that disease not infrequently complicates pregnancy and the puerperium. Oppenheimer found the gonococcus in the genital tract of 30 out of 108 gravidæ; Schwarz in 77 out of 617. As a cause of sterility gonorrhoea is in the first rank. In 87 sterile marriages, Gusserow detected gonorrhœal infection in 62.

Prophylactic measures which will be disregarded in this country are plainly stated by Bumm. Prognosis, fortunately, is less gloomy than formerly stated. In the way of local treatment preference is given to the silver salts.

The second volume includes Diseases of the Female Bladder, by Fritsch; Physical Examination of the Bladder, by Viertel; Inflammation and Atrophy of the Uterus, by Dodenlein; and
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an elaborate account of Fibroid Tumours of the Uterus, by Gebhard and others.

The part of most general interest is undoubtedly Dodenlein's account of inflammation of the uterus. The traditional arrangement is abandoned, and the bacteriological point of view asserted. In the uterus, as elsewhere, inflammation is due to the immediate or remote action of micro-organisms, and those cases which present anatomical alterations and clinical phenomena analogous to those associated with inflammation, but in which no trace of bacterial activity can be detected, are relegated to a different category. In a word, endometritis is not synonymous with inflammation of the mucous membrane of the uterus, but is a convenient descriptive term including (1) inflammation due to infection; (2) certain alterations of the endometrium characterised for the most part by hyperplastic processes, but in all probability not due to infection. It is obvious that this view of the subject has a very direct bearing upon prognosis and treatment.

When complete, Veit's Handbuch will be facile princeps in the sphere of gynaecology.

Diseases of Women: a Handbook for Students and Practitioners. By J. Bland Sutton and A. E. Giles. London: The Rebman Publishing Company, Limited. 1897.

In a short preface the writers state it has been their desire to relate facts and describe methods belonging to the science and art of gynaecology in a way that may be useful to students for examination purposes, and enable them to practise this important department of surgery with advantage to their patients and satisfaction to themselves. It may be doubted if these ends are ever compatible. The work that will combine them must at least display unity of conception and observe the laws of perspective, and both these are absent from this book. A very arbitrary arrangement is followed. Chapter follows chapter as if so many separate subjects were being discussed, and all sense of proportion disappears when a page is devoted to anomalies of the hymen, and only a few scattered lines to the very important subject of gonorrhoeal disease. Exception also must be taken to some dogmatic statements. To teach that no hard and fast line can be drawn between normal menstruation and dysmenorrhoea is not likely to be to the advantage of patients. Nor is the cylindrical speculum the simplest for ordinary purposes. It is almost time, indeed, that reference ceased to be made to it. Why Reid's speculum,
at once the simplest and best, remains unnoticed is a source of wonder. Perhaps it is because it is not made in Germany. The handbook is well printed, and the illustrations, if sometimes badly chosen, well executed. The leading facts of the science are given, and the surgical tendency of the art emphasised by the devotion of nearly one hundred pages out of some four hundred and twenty to gynaecological operations.

A Manual of Obstetric Practice for Students and Practitioners. By Professor A. Dürrssen, M.D. Translated and Edited from the Sixth Emended and Enlarged Edition by John W. Taylor, F.R.C.S., and Frederick Edge, M.D., F.R.C.S. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1897.

There are little more than three hundred pages in this volume, and those pages are not large, but the book well deserves the attention of the practitioner. The fact that it has already reached its sixth edition in Germany (the first appeared in 1890) prepares us to find it possessed of distinct merits, and we see no reason to quarrel with the translators' claim that it is a practical book in which nothing essential is neglected, and every direction for diagnosis or treatment has been carefully chosen. The author is representative of the modern German school in the emphasis he lays on the strict practice of antisepsis; and the manner in which he recommends that disinfection of a case of labour should be carried out is characterised by a thoroughness that will often not be attained in this country. But it is well to aim high, and in theory at any rate, disinfection cannot be too thorough.

Lawson Tait's Perineal Operations, and an Essay on Curettage of the Uterus. By W. J. Stewart M'Kay, M.B., M.Ch., B.Sc. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1897.

The chief interest of this little book lies in the fact that it gives us an authoritative representation of Lawson Tait's perineal operations. The author was for some time assistant to Mr. Tait, and the latter has revised and annotated this description before publication. On this account alone it is worth consultation, and Mr. Tait's opinion that "Dr. M'Kay's ingenious diagrams, and carefully detailed description, will bring the understanding of these simple proceedings within the reach of all," is quite justified.
The essay on "Curettage of the Uterus" discusses in a practical way the various conditions in which this operation is advisable, gives plain directions for its performance, and duly refers to the dangers attending it. But it is too fragmentary to form a satisfactory statement of the subject.

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Economics, Anaesthetics, and Antiseptics in the Practice of Midwifery. By Haydn Brown, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1897.

We can recommend this little volume to our readers as being one of the most illiterate and unscientific productions ever presented to us for review. We forgive the author, however, as he is sometimes really quite amusing.

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Reports from the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Edited by J. Batty Tuke, M.D., and D. Noel Paton, M.D. Vol. VI. Edinburgh: William F. Clay. 1897.

The chief interest of the present volume lies in the account it contains of the new laboratory, which was opened for work in June, 1896. The old laboratory had done service from 1888 till then. The work done in the old building is recorded in six volumes of published Reports, including the present, a number of which have already been noticed with approval in our pages. The six volumes contain 114 papers, roughly classified as follows:—Anatomical, 23; physiological, 27; pathological, 47; pharmacological, 15; other subjects, 2. This strikes us as being a splendid record of work, fully justifying the establishment of the laboratory by the College of Physicians, and we trust that in the new laboratory much more good work may yet be done.

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Transactions of the British Institute of Preventive Medicine. First Series. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1897.

We welcome this volume with great satisfaction. It is an indication that the higher pathological research has at last secured a home in our country. With Lord Lister at the head of affairs, and Dr. Allan M'Fadyen as Director, the future of this Institute is assured. The volume is unpretending in its appearance, but the papers, particularly those on the sterilisation of water and milk, are of great practical value.