of a grave malady, and this knowledge naturally deepened the apprehensions which were but too truly realised.

His remains were interred in the family burying ground in the Necropolis, and we feel sure that the entire profession in the West of Scotland participate in the sorrow of his family, and of the large circle of friends who gathered round his grave.

---

**REVIEWS.**

*Lectures on the Diseases of Women.* By CHARLES WEST, M.D., F.R.C.P. Fourth edition. With numerous additions by J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN, M.D., LL.D., &c., Obstetric Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Pp. 676. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1879.

As everybody knows, this is one of the classical works on the subject of which it treats, and the advent of this edition has been looked forward to, by gynaecologists, with great interest. There is considerable change in some of the chapters, more especially in those in which the subjects of ulceration of the os uteri and ovariotomy are treated of. Dr. Duncan's additions are distinguished from the ordinary text by being included within brackets. The opening chapters, on the general symptoms of uterine disease and the methods of examination are very good, especially the remarks in reference to vaginal examination and the delicacy with which it should be conducted. "The examination," the author remarks, "by which alone this information can be obtained, must be extremely painful to a woman's feelings, since she is not now, as in the time of labour, impelled by the extremity of her sufferings to submit to anything for the sake of relief. She seems, indeed, to be now peculiarly alive to every painful impression, and while she feels almost overwhelmed by a sense of humiliation at having to undergo an examination, of the necessity for which she may yet feel fully convinced, she will judge with painful minuteness each act of yours—any needless delay, any careless exposure of her person, any apparent want of delicacy or consideration. With the greatest care, indeed, you will not always escape from undeserved blame; without it, you will perpetually wound your patient's feelings, and if you do not injure your own prospects, you will yet fail to sup-
port the honour of your profession, and will lead to the inference that there is at least one department of the art of healing incompatible with the tone, and manner, and feeling of a high-bred gentleman. * * * I am therefore all the more anxious to impress upon you that the delicacy with which you ought to conduct all your investigations into the diseases of women, is not a thing which can be assumed for the nonce, but that it must be the habit of the mind, must therefore have been acquired now during your pupilage, and in the midst of your intercourse with the poor.”

In speaking of men who err either by making too much of uterine ailments, or else by ignoring their existence altogether, this illustration is given. “A woman applies to a practitioner who is guilty of the first mentioned error, complaining of painful and scanty menstruation: he at once adopts mechanical means for her relief. He introduces bougies to widen the canal, and to remove some, probably imaginary, contraction of the cervix uteri, by which he conceives the escape of the menstrual fluid to be impeded, and he even incises it to make sure, as he supposes, of enlarging its calibre. After undergoing much pain of body and much distress of mind, the patient finds herself, at the end of these manipulations, no better than when they began; the cause of her sufferings lay deeper, and was to have been found in the derangement of her general health, which would have attracted the notice of a better physician, and which well directed measures would probably have cured. Let me mention another case as illustrative of the opposite error. A patient seeks for relief on account of profuse menstruation, attended with discharge of coagula, but accompanied with little or no pain. General treatment is adopted. The patient is confined to the recumbent posture, in a cool and well ventilated room, astringents are given internally, cold is applied locally, and no sign of disorder of the general health is allowed to pass without appropriate means for its cure; but yet amendment does not follow, for the bleeding depends upon the presence of a polypus, which nothing but careful examination of the uterus could discover. In the one case a crass mechanical treatment was adopted to cure an affection that depended on the state of the general health; in the other, general treatment failed to remove symptoms which careful investigation would have shown to depend upon a local cause.”

Dr. West lays great stress on the good to be got by the bimanual method of examination, while the patient lies on her back, although, as a rule, he prefers the ordinary obstetrical
position in which to use the speculum. In speaking of examination per rectum, he does not refer to the desirability of making the patient aware of the special nature of the examination. If this be not done, the patient can hardly help doubting the practitioner's knowledge of the anatomy of the parts, and resisting until she is assured that such a method of examination is deliberate and intentional. This does not hold true in connection with a vaginal examination, for that, in the circumstances, every woman is led to expect.

The author gives very clear and concise rules for the introduction of the cylindrical glass speculum, omitting, however, what seems to us one of the most important points. When the labia have been separated and the point of the speculum has been fairly insinuated into the orifice of the vagina, the perineum should be pushed firmly back with the point of the instrument till its anterior bevelled surface has passed clear of the urethra, after which it is pushed onwards with a rotatory movement till the os uteri is brought into view. This method is founded on the fact that the perineal part of the orifice is more distensible and less sensitive than the anterior part, and it is wise practice to reject, in favour of a smaller one, any speculum which, when the perineum is thus forced back, still shows part of the urethral orifice within its lumen. One, knowing this, may use an instrument without pain, which another, ignorant of it, could pass only with great distress to the patient.

Dr. West seems not to have much faith in puncture of the cervix for the relief of congestion. "We cannot, however," he says, "abstract by this means any considerable amount of blood; and whenever there is much congestion of the vessels of the uterine substance, which we are anxious to relieve by depletion, leeches to the part are always to be preferred." We think, from personal experience, that the author is mistaken as to the fact that blood cannot be drawn both freely and safely from a number of more or less superficial punctures of the cervix uteri, and this method is the routine practice at certain hospitals, the Rotunda, for instance, where the old plan of bleeding by means of leeches was found to be uncertain, slow, and expensive.

In speaking of the operation for the removal of the ovaries undertaken for severe and obstinate dysmenorrhœa, the following remarks are made. "To my thinking, this, like other mutilations of women, is as objectionable on moral as on physical grounds. Respect for the sanctity of womanhood seems to me as essential for him who professes to treat the
diseases of women, as medical skill, or manual dexterity." We think too much cannot be done in the way of upholding the well deserved respect in which most men hold women, but we fail to see where the immoral element comes in, in this connection. If a woman is suffering and dying from an ovarian cyst we remove one or both ovaries. Now-a-days, even Dr. West, opposed as he is in a general way to operative interference, recommends this procedure. Now, if another woman suffers from dysmenorrhœa to such an extent that her life is a burden to her, that she is almost certainly sterile and that her only hope is, that when menstruation ceases and the ovaries become sexually dead, she may recover her health, and if, still further, it can be proved that the removal of her ovaries will immediately relieve her from pain, and, as it were, save her from years of distress which she must otherwise endure before she would naturally cease to menstruate; if all this can be satisfactorily shown to be the case, then we do not see wherein the operation can, in any way, be said to be objectionable on moral grounds or as violating the "sanctity of womanhood."

For the treatment of acute inflammation of the uterus the author still recommends bleeding from the arm as a preliminary to local bleeding and other remedies, and holds that leeching the uterus itself is much more efficacious than when the hypogastrium or groin is selected for that purpose.

In speaking of ulcerations of the os uteri, the fact is noted that they are situated for the most part on the posterior lip, and that they heal from the periphery towards the centre, but no explanation of these facts is given. It seems to us that these abrasions are caused mostly, if not altogether, by the abnormal state of the secretion from the cervix, and that as it has to pass, for the most part, over the posterior lip, there the abrasion takes place. This explanation has the practical bearing that, if we deal with the abrasion itself, without, at the same time, clearing out the cervical mucus and treating its cavity, we will either not cure the ulceration, or, if apparently cured, it will be found soon to return to its former condition.

In the directions given for the introduction of the lever pessary we are told that "as soon as it has passed the orifice of the vulva it is turned round with its convexity downwards, while, as the finger presses one end upwards towards the pubes, the other passes of necessity into the cul-de-sac behind the uterus." We are of opinion that, in the hands of a man who had not had much experience, it would, every now and then, pass before instead of behind the uterus, and so give rise
to pain, while, if the method, which many practise, is followed, in which the finger is made to press on, and carry up into the posterior cul-de-sac the posterior end of the pessary, then no such difficulty could arise.

In consequence of its inefficiency, Dr. West very decidedly disapproves of the operation for restoring the perineum as one of the means of curing prolapse of the uterus. In his note at the end of the chapter, Dr. Matthews Duncan says nothing about this point, but in his "Papers on the Female Perineum," published in the spring of the present year, he advocates the operation very strongly, as supplying an appropriate bearing for the pad of a T bandage, and so greatly relieving the patient, and fitting her for her domestic duties.

The chapters on misplacements of the uterus are very good, indeed, so interesting that one comes to the conclusion of them with a feeling of regret. The important fact, not generally known or remembered by practitioners, is pointed out, that a retroverted uterus may be so bound down by peritoneal adhesions that any forcible attempt to replace it may result in serious consequences.

It is said that flexions or versions by themselves very rarely produce any symptoms. When pain or uneasiness is present it is the consequence of accompanying ailments. Scanzoni, Bernutz and Goupil, Courty, and other authorities are quoted as holding the same opinions. One would be bold who would venture to contradict these good men; but we should like to know how they explain the fact that if a washerwoman comes to us complaining of so much weakness and backache as quite to unfit her for work, and if, finding the fundus of the uterus low down in the hollow of the sacrum, we replace it and insert a well fitting "Hodge," she is able, next day even, to resume her work in comparative comfort.

The sponge tent is recommended by the author for dilating the os, where uterine polypi are suspected to exist. We should think that, on account of their extra danger, no one who could get the compound laminaria tents would dream of using sponge, particularly in the case of the unimpregnated uterus.

Doubtless it is desirable that the tone of a book like this, which will be, and deserves to be, largely in the hands of young members of the profession, should be somewhat conservative. But it is to be hoped that future editions will show great modification of opinion in connection with other operations than that for ovarian disease. Dr. West condemns extirpation of the uterus, just as he used to do ovariotomy.
Yet Dr. Thomas Keith has removed the uterus for fibro-cystic tumours five times, and successfully in all the five cases. It is true that few of us have Dr. Keith's ability, but we should aim at approaching it, and to despair of success is not the best way of reaching it. In speaking of ovariotomy, the author tells us that it should never be performed without first trying the effect of tapping. His argument is, that this would cure some cases, and would make the diagnosis certain in all. He goes even further, and states that in single cysts he thinks it very doubtful whether they should ever be removed till the injection of iodine has been tried. But tapping and the injection of iodine are not by any means devoid of danger. Out of 62 cases where iodine was injected after tapping, Cascaux had three deaths, Gunther 59 out of 158, and Scanzoni operated in this way four times, all his four patients losing their lives in consequence. With improved methods of diagnosis, so that it be certainly an ovarian cyst, we do not feel it a bar to operative interference that extensive adhesions are known to exist, for they can be successfully dealt with, and life often saved. Of late, Dr. Keith has operated on every case which presented itself to him, many of them with enormous adhesions, and yet he has had (October) sixty-five cases in succession without a single death.

Dr. Duncan's notes are very practical and very much to the point, but we often feel that we should like to have had his opinion, upon certain subjects, a little more freely given.

The entire absence of anything in the shape of pictorial illustration will be considered by many to be a serious drawback to the usefulness of the book.

We cannot conclude this notice otherwise than by repeating what was said at the beginning of it; that this work is one of the best on the subject of which it treats.

Modern Medical Therapeutics: a Compendium of recent Formulae, and specific Therapeutic Directions from the practice of eminent Contemporary Physicians—English, American, and Foreign. By George H. Napheys. Sixth edition. Enlarged and revised. London: Baillière, Tindall, & Cox. 1879.

This book, which is likewise published in Philadelphia, is the work of an American author. It is a large volume of some 600 pages, and is well supplied with indexes. The remedies
are classified according to the diseases in which they are employed, and a certain classification of diseases is likewise maintained, so that any point in the work can be very readily referred to. The object of the work is well represented in the words of the title page, which we have quoted above in full. In thus letting down his net into the great ocean of the current periodical literature of medicine, we find that the author brings up, as might be expected, both good and bad together. He who uses such a book must, therefore, be prepared to make the selection for himself. Subject to this important proviso, this book may be commended as suitable for reference, particularly by those who have tried most of the current medicines for a patient, and who wish to see if any newer remedies offer a feasible hope of success.

This work presents something much better than a mere list of formulæ, although it contains such in abundance. It aims at giving in a short form the ideas on which the treatment suggested is founded, and it deals likewise with those general measures so important in treatment, which cannot be summed up in a mere prescription. We believe that the volume will supply what many practitioners are often anxious to possess for reference in the practice of their art.

Bulletin de la Société Clinique de Paris. Rédigé par MM. les Docteurs F. Labadie-Lagrave et Henri Huchard, Secrétaires des Séances. Paris: V. Adrien Delahaye et Cie. 1879.

This volume contains the Proceedings for 1878, being the second year of the existence of the Society. We have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the papers published in it, as we find not a few of great interest. Amongst these may be mentioned papers on the Cutaneous Eruptions produced by Chloral; Paralysis of the Nerves of the Arm from Pressure and Cold; Venous Pulsation in the back of the Hands in Phthisical Patients; Local and General Temperature in Disease; Thoracentesis in Acute Pleurisy, &c., &c.

Not only have we full accounts of the clinical cases thus submitted to the Society, but we have likewise the remarks and criticisms passed on them by the members present, amongst whom we notice the names of Anger, Dieulafoy, Onimus, Panas, Peter, &c., &c.