

good. Prominence is given to Prof. Bigelow's contributions on the mechanism of luxations of the hip and his methods of treatment. Kelly's methods of treating dislocations of the shoulder, elbow, and hip, are not mentioned. Other items such as various hints on diagnosis are omitted, though we should have them. Great importance is attached to an old fashioned contrivance called Jarvis' Adjustor, but the author adds the rather discouraging information that it cannot now be procured.

The remaining articles, which are named above, are quite up to the mark, and the volume as a whole is very creditable to its authors.

*Excision of the Knee-joint, With Report of Twenty-eight Cases.* Illustrated by Thirteen Photographs and Wood Engravings. By G. E. Fenwick, M.D., C.M., Prof. of Surgery, McGill University. Montreal: Dawson Bros., 1883. Price, \$2.25.

We welcome this little brochure not only as a meritorious contribution to the subject of which it treats, but especially as the work of a Canadian Surgeon. Our countrymen are very diffident about appearing in print; and we are glad that one of Dr. Fenwick's undoubted competence and ability should present this encouraging and successful example. The seventy pages of which the book is composed, are divided into two sections; the former embracing a discussion and description of the operation, the latter, a record of cases. Dr. Fenwick's special method of dealing with the bone, and which has certainly proved eminently successful in his hands, is to apply the saw to the femur from before backwards in such a way as to produce a smooth and uniformly convex surface, destined to be received into a concavity in the head of the tibia, analogously made, but the sections being carried from behind forwards.

A table of twenty-eight cases of excision of knee, performed in the Montreal General Hospital in the last eighteen years, is appended. This shows twenty-four cases, one death from pyæmia, two subsequently submitted to amputation, and one doubtful case. Shortening varied from half to four and a half inches. Patients' stay in bed varied from 28 to 212 days.

*Chemistry: General, Medical, and Pharmaceutical, including the Chemistry of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. A Manual on the General principles of the Science and their*

*Applications in Medicine and Pharmacy.* By John Attfield, F. R. S., etc. Tenth Edition specially revised by the author for America. 1883: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

The rapidity with which the numerous editions of this excellent manual have succeeded each other is a proof that the work has met the wants it was expected to fill. To this, the latest edition, we can add nothing to the remarks made on the last occasion on which we had the pleasure of looking over its contents. It is the Book for Medical Students of Chemistry. No other manual in our opinion, approaches it in clearness of diction, lucidity of statement and comprehensive grasp of the subject matter. It cannot fail to be a source of sincere gratification to the author to feel that he has so successfully catered to the needs of that limited public which are generally so difficult to meet satisfactorily.

### Miscellaneous.

**VASELINE.**—Vaseline is very largely used both by the profession and the public. It is generally considered very bland and un-irritating. It is well however to know that it has been frequently found very irritating, producing an eczematous eruption in some cases very obstinate in its character. At a meeting of the Cincinnati Medical Society recently held, this occasional unpleasant effect of the remedy was referred to by many of the members and Dr. Wilfert said the Vaseline used at present is not the same preparation that was formerly employed. It is frequently found to be acid. When there is any tendency to eczema caution should be observed in its use.

FROM *New Remedies* we learn that knowing manufacturers of pepsine heartlessly take advantage of the well-known sympathy between the mouth and stomach, and by placing before the doomed hog a trough of mush covered with wire netting, make his mouth water, and thus excite a sympathetic flow of gastric juice in his stomach. While thus engaged in pleasurable but fruitless anticipation, the fatal blow is struck, and it is said that the yield of pepsine from the stomach is not only greater in quantity but superior in quality to that obtained under ordinary circumstances.—*Can. Phar. Jnl.*