

XXXII.—*An inquiry into the pathological importance of ulceration of the os uteri*, being the Croonian lectures for the year 1854. By CHARLES WEST, M. D., fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician, Accoucheur to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Physician to the Hospital for sick children; author of "Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood," &c., &c. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson. 1854, pp. 88.

There is only a brief month required to complete the annual cycle when we were called upon in the discharge of our critical labours to comment upon the modern doctrine of uterine Pathology, and felt ourselves compelled to dissent from the statements which were annunciated by Dr. J. H. Bennet, in his treatise on inflammation of the uterus. The reasons for this disagreement we endeavored to explain, and any one of our readers who feels sufficient interest in the subject can judge of their value by turning to the March number of the 1st volume of the Chronicle. This re-perusal will not be pointless, for on the present occasion we intend to continue the remarks then made by resuming the thread of our discourse.

One of the chief objects of the review in question was to determine the actual frequency of the prevalence of disease of the os uteri, and we are particular in calling attention to the circumstance from the direct relation which the conclusions we formed have to those which Dr. West has arrived at on the same subject, after, however, a much more lengthened and thorough investigation.

After the adduction of a body of statistical evidence which was impressed—to our eye at least—with irresistibility, we put down this deduction. "While denying that ulceration is of the frequent occurrence which it is represented to be by Dr. B., we are disposed to consider it as actually of rare occurrence." We then proceeded to reconcile in a kindly spirit the discrepancies we regretted existed between Dr. B. and ourselves. It is gratifying therefore to find that Dr. West, in a masterly manner, clearly substantiates in the present work the comparative rarity of ulceration of the os uteri. We need not follow him in the personal observations by which he justifies his opinion, since they are not so forcible as those which have already been recorded in the before-mentioned review, but we may in extension seek to ascertain the real importance of this lesion when it is positively present. Dr. West on this matter observes: "We have seen that in by far the majority of cases the ulceration when present was not merely trifling in extent, but that it had not given rise to so much irritation of the neighbouring tissues as to produce any appreciable congestions of the mucous membrane in its vicinity; while the changes in the uterine substance alleged to depend