

Book Reviews.

The Practice of Obstetrics. By American Authors. Edited by CHARLES JEWETT, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Children in the Long Island College Hospital, New York. New York and Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. 1899

The work is taken up in eight sections, the first of these dealing with Pelvic Anatomy. Not much is added to our knowledge of the pelvic fascia in it. The author gives some original and very interesting views on the insertion and function of the levator ani muscle, and it is regrettable that the two figures (12 and 13) which illustrate them do not elucidate them very well.

Part II., on the Physiology of Pregnancy, is very good. Chapter IV., on the Diagnosis of Pregnancy, especially so.

Part III. takes us over the Physiology of Pregnancy. The usual statement is made that the "head is born by extension." We think with Dr. Porter Mathew and others that this statement should be qualified. The head does not become extended till its greatest diameter has passed the vulvar outlet. In forceps cases especially it is important to remember this, as premature extension will often rupture the perineum.

We are glad to notice the stress laid on abdominal palpation and auscultation as a means of diagnosing presentation and position. This section is particularly good. In regard to obstetric antisepsis we think it more desirable to lay down definitely one good method than to quote three or four without special emphasis on any. The section on the Management of the First Stage of Labor is excellent, though we think that more might have been said on the relief of pain. In the "perineal stage" we should say emphatically, that one hand should *not* be placed "on the part of the pelvic floor which overlies the head." The plan of waiting half an hour for the placenta and then resorting to the "Credé" method, as advocated in this section by Charles Jewett, we do not think as good as the one recommended in the section on puerperal infection by Whitridge Williams, which is the Rotunda method. Compresses should *not* be used under the binder.

Part IV., on the Physiology of the Puerperium. The subject is well treated, and the matter well arranged.

In Part V., on the Pathology of Pregnancy we think that altogether too much space is devoted to the subject of Monsters. The eight full plates which are introduced here might have been omitted without lessening the utility of the work, and with great saving in the cost of production. Apart from this, Part V. is excellent.