

anæsthetics during 1885 was fifteen, of which only three occurred from ether, and the other twelve from chloroform.

STERILITY.—A writer in the *N. Y. Med. Jour.* states his belief in the efficacy of belladonna in the sterility of females. Women with good health, and who are nevertheless barren have he says on several occasions become pregnant after a few weeks' use of belladonna.

ASEPTOL.—Aseptol, says F. Hueppe, is likely to take the place of carbolic acid as an antiseptic and disinfectant. It is not irritating in solution up to ten per cent. It has a more pleasant odor than carbolic acid, is more soluble, is less poisonous and irritating, while it is equally efficacious as an antiseptic.

APPOINTMENTS.—Drs. A. H. Ferguson (Trin.), and Dr. Patterson, have been appointed physicians to the Winnipeg General Hospital. Drs. Codd and Whiteford have been appointed on the Consulting Staff.

CORONER.—Dr. J. H. McLellan of Lambeth, Ont., has been appointed Coroner for the County of Middlesex.

See special Club rates for LANCET and other journals for 1887, among advertisements.

Books and Pamphlets.

THE HEALING OF ARTERIES AFTER LIGATURE IN MAN AND ANIMALS. By J. Collins Warren, M. D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard University; Surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital; Member American Surgical Association; Honorary Fellow Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. New York: W. Wood & Co.

We could well have believed that to all American readers the name Warren might have served as sufficiently attractive and assuring without the above accumulation of honorary entitlements; but as the United States is a very fast country it is most probable that the memories of departed great men pass more speedily into oblivion than in other lands of more tardy progression. Be the fact as it may, this book of J. Collins Warren is no discredit to his venerated patronym. The in-

troductory history of "*The Ligature of Arteries*," involving as it must have done, a range of surgical authorities from 1500 years anterior to the Christian era, down to the present time, must have been an almost Augean labor. The bibliographic references given by the author amount to 235, and it is very gratifying to us to note that our countryman, *William Osler*, closes the roll of honor, with the date 1886. Dr. Warren's industry bespeaks the survival of ancestral enthusiasm: it must remind the Harvard student of 50 years ago, of the admirable anatomical museum of the *great Warren*—a skeletal collection of which the city of Boston might well be proud.

As a surgical experimenter the author has given abundant proofs of his untiring devotion and his faithful recordance of useful facts. Ardent theorists may derive very valuable instruction from the details of his numerous operations, all of which are given with desirable brevity and commendable clearness. Did available space permit the indulgence, we might, acceptably to the readers of the LANCET, quote numerous passages which would testify to the practical value of the work. We restrict our citations to the following closing lines: "We know that both silk and hempen ligatures can become either encysted or absorbed; in other words, they can be so applied as not to interfere with the healing process. Provided the ligatures be adjusted so as to obstruct permanently the flow of blood through the vessel, it is manifest, from the observations which have been described, that a destruction of a certain portion of the vessel walls, and a retraction of the ends of the vessel, must eventually take place, no matter what the nature of the material may be, or how it may be applied. The prime object, therefore, to be obtained, is to employ such methods as will interfere as little as possible with the natural sequence of events which follow one another during the process of repair under the most favourable conditions. When the ends of the vessel are once sealed by the formation of an external ring or callus, and the rest of the wound is promptly healed by first intention, so that the growth shall not be prematurely broken down by suppuration, all danger of hemorrhage is avoided. The rules of antiseptic surgery supply us, therefore, with a more certain method of securing the desirable result than any other plan which, up to the present time, has been proposed."