

BEECHER'S VOICE IN THE PHONO- GRAPH.

The *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* says: In the house of Thomas A. Edison, at Llewellyn Park, is a remarkable memento of Beecher. The inventor's phonograph for impressing on a soft metal sheet the utterances of the human voice, and then emitting it again by the turning of a crank, has never been put to any very valuable use, and Edison has only gathered from it a few thousand dollars in royalties from exhibitors. But he utilized it to make a collection of famous voices. Since he became famous his visitors have included hundreds of celebrities. Instead of asking them for their autographs or photographs, he has in two or three hundred instances requested them to speak a few sentences into a phonograph. He has kept the plates in a cabinet, and occasionally he runs some of them through the machine, which sends out the words exactly as uttered. Edison is probably the only man who can revive the silenced voice of the great preacher.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Roddick, Professor of Clinical Surgery in McGill University, is about to visit Europe for the benefit of his health.

Dr. George Ross, Professor of Clinical Medicine in McGill University, whose illness we mentioned some two months ago, is now at Rye Beach. His numerous friends will be pleased to know that he continues steadily to improve, and that there is every probability that by September he will be so completely recovered, as to justify him in resuming active work.

Dr. Sterling (M.D.), Edinburgh, has settled in Montreal as an Oculist.

Dr. Apostoli, the celebrated French Gynecologist, is, we learn, to pay Montreal a visit while *en route* to the International Congress at Washington. Dr. A. Laphorn Smith, of the Faculty of Medicine of Bishops' College, has been engaged by Dr. Apostoli to translate his forthcoming work into the English language.

Dr. Laberge, the Montreal Health officer, is undergoing a kind of periodical castigation at the present time. His treatment is rather harsh, and while, perhaps, not faultless, he has not been the listless idler his opponents would like to make him out.

REVIEW.

A Practical Treatise on Obstetrics. In four volumes. Vol. I, Anatomy of the Internal and External Genitals, Physiological Phenomena (Menstruation and Fecundation). Vol. II, The Pathology of Pregnancy. Vol. III, The Pathology of Labor. Vol. IV, Obstetric Operations, The Pathology of the Puerperium. By A. Charpentier, M.D., Paris. Illustrated with lithographic plates and wood engravings. These are Vols. I, II, III and IV of the "Cyclopedia of Obstetrics and Gynecology" (12 volumes), issued monthly during 1887. New York: Wm. Wood & Co. Price of the set \$16.50.

We congratulate the editor and publishers on the selection of Charpentier's work to represent the obstetric portion of their Cyclopedia. The editor, Dr. E. H. Grandin, has assuredly done his work well, and, in giving the book an English dress, has very properly placed in brackets the views held by the profession here, where they differed materially from the French text. An example of this may be found in the chapter containing a description of the third stage of labor. Dr. Charpentier advises traction on the cord, giving minute details as to the direction, etc, Dr. Grandin adds a description of Crede's method, and very properly adds that it is the accepted practice in this country. In another part of the work, however, we think the text could have been improved upon by making the positions of the child in delivery correspond to that usually given by English and American authors.

There is nothing more confusing to the student of medicine than to find that every obstetrical work he picks up gives different names to the different positions. When there is no special advantage to be derived from any special nomenclature, we certainly ought to try to confine ourselves to one for the sake of simplicity.

Volume four completes Charpentier's great work, and gives us the most interesting part of all. The variety of forceps described is very large, from the original one of the Chamberlen's to the latest modification of Tarnier's. All the obstetric operations are minutely described and profusely illustrated, but the wood-cuts are not as distinct as they might have been; this, no doubt, being due to the small cost of the work, so as to bring the price within the reach of all practitioners. Puerperal fever is regarded as merely puerperal septicæmia, and the author is an extreme advocate of antiseptic obstetrics, including the post partum vaginal injections in all cases. The rest of the book is admirable, especially the chapters on dystocia. The work is one intended more for the use of practitioners than for students.