

in the treatment of ulcers of the leg by a special India rubber bandage.

Amongst the surgical literature of the year we must notice, the 7th edition of Erichsen's "Science and Art of Surgery," "The Student's Manual of Venereal Diseases," by Berkeley Hill, and Arthur Cooper (both dualists); E. L. Keyes on the "Tonic Treatment of Syphilis," "Atlas of Skin Diseases," by Tilbury Fox; "The Harveian Lectures on Syphilis," by James Lane; "A practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin," by L. A. Duhring; "Clinical Records of Diseases and Injuries of the Genito Urinary Organs," by Charles Fleming; "Traite des Maladies de la Prostate," Par. Henri Picard; "Surgery—Past, Present and Future;" and "Excessive Mortality after Surgical operations," by Spencer Wells; Francis Mason on "Harelip and Cleft Palate;" further parts of Jonathan Hutchinson's "Illustrations of Clinical Surgery," and Christopher Heath's "Operative Surgery" now completed. Last, but not least, we would refer to a study of the life of the greatest surgeon of a former day by the greatest surgeon of the present—we mean the "Hunterian Oration," by Sir James Paget.

OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Obstetrics can no longer be regarded as playing the part of Cinderella, as lately depicted, by Dr. Robert Barnes, in comparison with her older and more favoured sisters, medicine and surgery. The day has at length arrived in which this branch of the healing art has assumed its rightful place as a most conspicuous and important part of the Æsculapian edifice. Its study and practice fully engage the highest faculties and most assiduous attention of some of the ablest minds in the profession, and the assistance it alone affords in unravelling many of the mysteries of nature as observed in other departments of medical science renders an intimate acquaintance with it indispensable for the accurate comprehension of the whole. In midwifery and the diseases of women and children, the past year has not been uneventful. The never absent subject of post-partum hæmorrhage has necessarily attracted much attention. The value of ergot, in restraining

this, has been much questioned, yet the general opinion, as expressed during the year, would appear to be that, if a reliable preparation of the fluid extract, or a freshly prepared infusion be employed, the drug is still worthy of our confidence. Dr. Gordon, of Hannibal, Mo., has found the tincture of *Hydrastis Canadensis* in twenty to thirty minim doses, very useful in such cases. Dr. Runge has this year stated that he has found intra-uterine injections of hot water (117°—124° Fahr.) to succeed where ergot, ice, and external manipulation had failed. He also cites Windelbänd, Jakoch and Landan's experience in its favour, but he does not appear to have been aware that it has been long practised in America by Fordyce Barker, Emmet and others. The majority of the records of the year are, perhaps, in favour of the tincture of iodine or the perchloride of iron. In the Practitioner for March, Dr. Griffiths reports favorably upon the use of ether spray. Several cases of rupture of the uterus have been recorded with unusually favorable results. Dr. Hart, of Amsterdam, relates one case in which the foetus was delivered by gastrotomy and the life of the mother saved. Mr. Richmond Leigh, of the Liverpool Lying-in-Hospital, records the occurrence of a case of rupture without symptoms; labour was terminated naturally and the placenta came away easily. Collapse was absent. She lived six days, and apparently died from hæmorrhage. The rent was found at the junction of the lower $\frac{1}{3}$ with the upper $\frac{2}{3}$ of the uterus. Dr. Rose, of West Winfield, N. Y., reports the case of an Irishwoman who has undergone four successive ruptures of uterus, and is still living. Gastrotomy in obstetric practice has not been without its successes during the year. Dr. Buckell, of Winchester, records a case where the life of the foetus was saved by Caesarian section performed between twenty and thirty minutes after the death of the mother. Dr. Kœberle, of Nancy, performed gastrotomy for an irreducible retroversion of uterus producing intestinal obstruction; the uterus was restored to position, one of its ligaments fastened in the wound and recovery ensued. As mentioned in the surgical section, Mr. Lawson performed gastrotomy in a case of