

soda and a little less of tartaric acid, each dissolved in half a glass of water. The tartaric solution is first drunk and then the soda one. He uses these large doses in order to make the outlines of the stomach both visible and palpable. This shows not only the position and size of the stomach, but also its relation to other organs, tumors, etc. He says he has never seen any disagreeable consequences from the method, but he keeps a stomach tube in readiness for an emergency. He prefers this method to that of inflation with air through a stomach tube. Many people find the drinking of the soda and acid solutions more objectionable than the passing of the tube; then the tube often has to be passed in any case to obtain the contents for examination. Again it takes some time for the CO₂ to be absorbed, while the air can be allowed to escape before the tube is withdrawn. With the latter also the degree of distension of the stomach can be exactly controlled. To the use of the stomach tube in diagnosis he attaches great importance. It is as essential to the physician as the stethoscope or thermometer. By its use we ascertain the size, shape, position and relationships of the stomach, its motor power, as shown by its power of emptying itself in due time, and the character of its secretions. To the quantity of hydrochloric acid present, he rightly attaches less importance than to the motor power.

The sections on diet and treatment are unnecessarily long, as much of them is repeated again under the several diseases. This repetition is a chief cause of the undue size of the volume.

Notwithstanding its many shortcomings, the volume is a valuable one, as it presents a fairly reliable account of the subject and few of the most recent contributions are overlooked.

The publishers have done their part well. The print is clear, and the paper is heavy, but has the strong odor of the preceding volumes.

A. M'P.

A Practical Text-Book of the Diseases of Women. By ARTHUR H. N. LEWERS, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Senior Obstetric Physician to the London Hospital and Lecturer on Midwifery in the London Hospital Medical School; Examiner in Obstetric Medicine to the University of London; Examiner in Midwifery and Diseases of Women at the Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; University Scholar and Gold Medallist in Obstetric Medicine, London University. Sixth edition, with 166 illustrations, four colored plates, and 74 illustrative cases. London: H. K. Lewis, 136 Gower Street, W.C. 1903.

Although a great deal has been written on this subject of late, and many new and valuable books have been issued, yet this neat,