

Reviews and Notices of Books.

A TEXT-BOOK on the SCIENCE and ART of OBSTETRICS. By HENRY J. GARRIGUES, A.M., M.D., 884 pages, 504 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. Canadian Agent, Charles Roberts, 1524 Ontario street, Montreal.

Few writers of recent obstetric books have brought to their task a better equipment than the author of this most interesting contribution to obstetric literature.

An author and teacher of the subject for more than twenty-five years, a vast experience in both hospital and private practice, a close student and the writer of one of the most popular text-books on gynæcology, Professor Garrigues' name on the title page is sufficient to lead to high expectations on the part of the medical reader.

In his modest preface the author states that his aim has been to write a text-book and not a book of reference, and thus in a degree apologizes for the magisterial tone used in the text.

The general management of the subject is excellent, the aim being to lead the student from the simple to the complicated. The subject is divided into two general divisions—normal and abnormal. In the first division he considers after a short general foundation, normal pregnancy, normal labour and normal puerpery. In the second division are discussed abnormal pregnancy, dystocia, obstetric operations and abnormal puerpery, while the book concludes with an excellent section: "Notes on the Diseases of New Born Children." The division into chapters is overdone, there being no less than 120.

Chapter V is very unfortunate and its matter in bad taste in a text-book for students. In future editions it should be rewritten or, better, expurgated. The chapter on the placenta is too brief and is scarcely satisfactory. The chapters dealing with the mechanism of labour, the conduct of labour, faulty presentations, deformed pelves, symphysiotomy and Cæsarean section are specially worthy of mention. The author writes a strong indictment against the employment of midwives in any civilized community. His objections are well taken and forcibly advanced. As an example of his opinion on this subject the following may be quoted:—"The institution of midwives is a remnant of barbaric times, a blot on civilization which ought to be wiped out as soon as