

*Medical Gynecology.* A treatise on the diseases of women from the standpoint of the physician. By ALEXANDER J. C. SKENE, M.D., Professor of Gynecology in the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., etc., etc. With illustrations. New York : D. Appleton & Co. Canadian agency : N. G. Morang, 63 Yonge Street, Toronto. 1895.

Surgical gynecology has in recent times advanced so rapidly, and occupied so pronounced a place in medical literature, that it is a relief to read a work dealing with the purely medical side of this subject. This volume is divided into three parts. The first treats of the primary differentiation of sex, development and growth during early life, and the conditions favorable to the evolution of normal organization and the attainment of a healthy putrity. Part second considers the characteristics of sex, the adaption of structure to function, the predisposition to particular diseases, and the causes of certain affections peculiar to women, etc. Part three deals with the menopause and the diseases of the latter period. As is to be expected, the work is well written and contains many practical and useful suggestions; among the more interesting sections are those relating to massage, hysteria, neurasthenia, sex and its relations to insanity; functional diseases of the bladder and derangements of menstruation and of the sexual function. In dealing with mental therapeutics, Dr. Skene presents his compliments to the "Christian Scientists" as follows: "A sad and pitiful show they make of themselves when trying to do impossible things. While they are doing an endless amount of harm, they do good occasionally; but it is by accident. When by chance they get hold of a case that can be relieved by hypnotic suggestion, and they succeed in hypnotizing the sufferer, they do good. But the harm they do far outbalances the good in their efforts to do impossible things, by using their faith cure in cases that cannot be helped by it, and by keeping the poor sufferers from proper treatment. They offend against the right in this way as all charlatans do, by insisting on being able to cure all diseases by one agent. They should be suppressed. They are a bane to the world. . . . Prayer is a therapeutic agent; the hypnotic state can be induced by prayer. If relief is sought in prayer, and it is possible that it can be obtained through hypnotism, that prayer will be answered. The laws of psychology and physiology are so arranged that certain prayers are answered and others are not. This is the only scientific explanation of the efficacy of prayer in healing the sick that I can find."