

*Nasal Polypus; with Neuralgia, Hay-fever, and Asthma in its relation to Ethmoiditis.* By EDWARD WOAKES, M.D. Lond. London: H. K. LEWIS. 136 Gower St., W. C., 1887.

A perusal of this work impresses one with the idea that the title—especially that on the back of the book—is deceiving. It is not so much to nasal polypus that the author's attention is given, but rather to an exhaustive account of inflammation of the ethmoid bone, or more particularly that portion of it known as the middle turbinated bone. To a certain process of necrosis which takes place in the bone and the formation of minute spiculæ which cause irritation, the author attributes the subsequent hypertrophy of the mucous membrane, and also the pathological origin of the mucous polypus. Further, the pressure caused by the hypertrophic enlargement of the middle turbinated bone on nerves of the septum—especially on the nerve of cotunnus—give raise by reflex action through the sympathetic system to various forms of neuralgia, to the symptoms of hay-fever and nasal asthma, as well as paroxysmal sneezing and coughing. The subject is argued out most thoroughly, and is no doubt highly scientific. The work ought certainly to be carefully read by all those who are desirous of an intimate knowledge of the pathology of some important diseases of the nasal cavities.

*Operative Surgery on the Cadaver.* By JASPER JEWETT GARMANY, A.M., M.D., F.R.C.S. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1887.

Given a cadaver and the opportunity of using it, what manipulations and what operations can be practised upon it to the greatest advantage? This seems to have been the question which Dr. Garmany in the volume before us has tried to answer. His answer is, in many respects, a satisfactory one. Regarding certain operations—ovariotomy for example—very little can be learned by operating upon "subjects." But the list of operations which can be helpfully practised on the cadaver is a long one, and the value of such practice is being more and more appreciated. Diligence in reading without practical training will no more make a surgeon, than will the study of colors make an artist without experience in the use of the brush or pencil. Valentine Mott,

who is said to have performed more operations than any other surgeon living or dead, used to practise over and over again upon dead bodies the operations which he proposed to do upon living ones. When the Ontario Medical Council, which has done so much for medical education, adds to its other requirements for license to practice here, the proof of a practical acquaintance with art of surgery, books of this kind will be more in demand. Until then, its sale here will probably be a limited one. No words are wasted in the instructions given, nor is clearness sacrificed to brevity.

Being based largely upon Stephen Smith's "Operative Surgery," we may feel assured that the methods advised in this book are the best now known to the profession.

The mechanical execution of the work is up to the Appleton standard. Saying this, what more need be said? Who has seen, in recent years at least, a badly issued medical work, bearing the imprint of this firm.

*Transactions of the American Gynecological Society, Vol. 2, for the year 1886.* New York: D. Appleton & Co.

This is a very valuable publication. It should be read by every medical practitioner who is engaged in the treatment of uterine maladies, or who desires to obtain a better knowledge of this important branch of medical art. The book contains 516 pages; the paper is excellent and the typography is faultless.

The papers are unusually able and instructive; some are longer than, perhaps, the audience may have desired, and others are shorter than their merits should have demanded. That of Dr. Engelmann, on "Electricity in Gynecology," does not belong to the latter category; it covers 150 pages, but considering the great importance of the subject, and the high role which this therapeutic agent is destined to assume, in the treatment of numerous morbid conditions that have heretofore perplexed or utterly defied the ablest practitioners, it cannot be charged against Dr. Engelmann that he has written too much. An accurate knowledge of the most improved system of manipulation in electrolytic practice is not less important than diagnostic exactitude, and the readers of Dr.