

Book Reviews.

DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR. By William Lincoln Ballenger, M.D., Professor of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, University of Illinois; Fellow of the American Laryngological Association, etc., etc. Second edition. 491 engravings and 17 plates. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

While the first edition of this work was both comprehensive and elaborate, the second edition, thoroughly revised, and much of it rewritten, far surpasses it in completeness. The author has spared no pains in its preparation, and, having examined a vast amount of new material, he has incorporated all that he deemed worthily available within the pages of the new book, bringing the medical and surgical treatment of diseases of the nose, throat and ear down to the most recent date.

Upon the subject of sub-mucous secretion, he gives new engravings and new descriptions, coupled with a strong advocacy of its more general adoption in practice. At the same time he wisely describes, giving illustrations, many of the other modern methods of operation, and advocates some of them as more suitable than the sub-mucous resection for the treatment of certain types of deviation of the septum.

The surgery of the accessory sinuses also comes in for a full share of attention, several new methods of treatment, together with new illustrations, being given.

Diseased tonsils have likewise a new chapter written upon them. On this subject the writer's views are most advanced. With all the breadth of a cosmopolitan, he describes other methods of operation and treatment, while he pins his faith to the one of complete tonsillectomy, removing not only the tonsil in its entirety, but the capsule also, as the only surgical method to be adopted, whether the patient be a child or an adult.

It is a serious question whether such an advanced view, accepted though it is by many, should receive the universal application which the author advocates. Many writers of experience still believe that the normal tonsil has a distinct function to perform in the animal economy, the proof being the gradual development of the tonsil, followed by its gradual recession during the early years of life. There may be no question about the advisability of removing the entire tonsil in the adult, after its physiological function has ceased to operate and the tonsil has