

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Cleft Patate, Treatment of Simple Fracture by Operations Diseases of Joints, Antrectomy, Hernia, etc., etc. By W. ARBUTHNOT LANE, M.S. London: The Medical Publishing Co., Limited.

A very neatly gotten up little book containing a collection of clinical lectures which have been published from time to time.

To two of these lectures one turns with some curiosity. The first is a strong plea, well supported, in favour of the treatment of simple fracture by operation. The simple fractures especially referred to are oblique fractures of the bones of the leg.

If one could always be sure that no pathogenic germ would gain access, there is no doubt but that much better results could often be obtained in this way. But, unfortunately, the best trained surgeon, in a fully equipped operating room cannot yet be absolutely sure of his technique, much less the occasional surgeon, operating, often amidst the most unfavourable surroundings, assisted by totally untrained assistants. Let us hope that it will not be always so. Another point made by Mr. Lane will be assented to by a larger number of surgeons, and that is, that it is blood clot and inflammatory effusion, more than the contraction of muscles, that prevents the proper and accurate approximation of the fragments.

The second noticeable lecture is entitled "Some of the Consequences of Wearing Boots." It is illustrated, and should be read by all, medical and lay, who are prone to sacrifice comfort and common sense to fashion and appearance.

G. E. A.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Volume the Sixteenth. Edited by DE FOREST WILLARD, A.M., M.D., Ph.D., Recorder of the Association. Philadelphia: William J. Dornan. 1898.

The present volume of the Association is considerably smaller than most of the preceding volumes, containing nine papers and two hundred and eighty odd pages less than the volume for 1897.

A very good portrait of the late Dr. Hayes Agnew forms an appropriate frontispiece. The late Dr. Agnew was President of the Association in 1887. During the past year a monument, lasting in character, has been erected in Philadelphia in the Agnew Memorial Wing of the University Hospital.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was, this year, held in New Orleans. In his address, the President, Theodore F. Prewitt, M.D., discussed "The Future of the Association," particularly regarding the widening of the portals of entrance. The president favors a less exclusive policy and would admit men who are honest, capable, and have won a standing in the profession, which would warrant admission to fellowship in the most distinguished body of surgeons in the United States. Among the valuable papers contributed at the annual meeting, and printed in the present volume, together with the discussion which followed, may be mentioned: