

happen, his services have come into general requirement, and are rendered alike in simple and complicated labours. These should form sufficiently cogent reasons for his fully perfecting himself in the theory and art of midwifery, or as it is pompously called, upon the continent in tokology.

In the work familiarly known as "Ramsbotham's Obstetrics," will be found a correct and minute account of the present state of the literature of this department of medicine, and we know of no safer guide than it for the practitioner or better book of perusal for the student. It is not our intention to enter upon its praises, for that would be a work of supererogation. Since its appearance, 14 years ago, it has enjoyed an unsullied approbation, and is among the practitioners of Britain and this continent referred to as the standard work on the subject.

The present edition contains, like the first, a description of the different species of labours and their necessary accompaniments, the anatomy of the organs distinctive of the female economy, and a physiological outline of generation, but besides these it also comprises an account of the diseases of the puerperal state and of pregnancy. Some matters discussed formerly, rather too laconically, have been entered into more fully, as examples we may mention the connection between the maternal and fetal systems, and the establishment of respiration in newly born children. Another feature which has been super-added to the original work is a collection of tables drawn up from the practice of the Royal Maternity Charity in London. A great deal of value has been attached to numerical statements of this kind, and few works having any claim to profundity are issued without containing a fewer or greater number. We confess, however, not to be very ardent admirers of them for, generally speaking, the system is faulty from the looseness with which the facts are put together and the hastiness with which the generalizations are drawn. Very carefully recorded statistics, at most only serve to denote approximations to the actual prevalence or constancy of any particular phenomenon, and can never meet the purposes of precision under an application to similar instances or even afford more than a rough average under circumstances of a more general character.

This edition of Ramsbotham, it will be seen from the title, has been especially prepared for the American press by the author, and enlarged by his own additions and notes. We find that English writers are beginning to follow a similar practice with their productions, and endeavor to secure their publication on this Continent, after effecting an advantageous arrangement with some well-known firm, as the Messrs. Blanchard & Lea. This is what they should have done long ago; for, among other evident benefits to be derived, not the least are securing the appearance of the work in strict accordance with their own desires. The