

delphia, whose annotations in this and in previous editions have covered the points wherein American practice differs from that of English obstetricians. The work will continue to be a favorite text-book for students and a trustworthy guide for the practitioner.

Ever since its first appearance it has enjoyed the reputation of being the leading text-book in England on this subject. We had the pleasure seventeen years ago of being intimately acquainted with a young Canadian in London, who had won the gold medal for Obstetrics offered by the University of London. He told us then that he had made "Playfair" his *vade mecum*. We were rather disappointed in former editions at the small attention devoted to puerperal fever. This defect has been fully remedied in the present edition, the chapter on puerperal septicaemia and also the one on symphyseotomy being very complete, with the one exception that the total removal of the septic uterus is not mentioned among the methods of treatment. The great claim which may be made for Playfair is its thoroughness. There is hardly anything connected with midwifery that one cannot find an ample but concise notice of, under its appropriate heading; and the wood-cuts are all useful ones. In fact, there is a total absence of padding either in the cuts or in the text. The veteran American editor, Dr. Harris of Philadelphia, who is recognized all over the world as an authority on symphyseotomy in particular, and as a vigorous writer on obstetrical topics generally, has fully made use of his privilege to make annotations, and to the American reader his notes are a valuable addition to the book. Both the author and American editor show a vast amount of erudition and wonderful familiarity with journal literature, as evidenced by their quoting nearly every important case that has been reported on this topic, while their own opinions are expressed so modestly and yet so decidedly as to deserve our admiration. We do not say that this is the best work extant, but we can truly say that it is one of the most valuable text-books on midwifery that has ever appeared.

THE THROAT AND NOSE AND THEIR DISEASES.

With one hundred and twenty illustrations in color and two hundred and thirty-five engravings designed and executed by the Author. Lennox Brown, F.R.C.S. Eng., Senior Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, late President British Laryngological Association. Fourth edition. Philadelphia: Lea Bros. & Co.

In this edition the author has introduced all recent information of value, much that was doubtful has been expunged, and the space thus gained has been devoted to further details of the influence of micro-organisms in producing throat diseases. The main feature of this

new edition, however, has been the expansion of that portion of the work which deals with diseases of the nose, for in the condition of the nasal fossæ which constitute the first avenues of the natural breath way is, to be found the key to the right understanding and successful treatment of the majority of faucial, pharyngeal and laryngological diseases. One of the things that strikes us more forcibly is the valuable help afforded by the very numerous and exquisitely beautiful lithographic plates drawn from nature and on stone by the author.

The wood-cuts which appear on every page are not less explicit in their teaching. With commendable courtesy the author says in his introductory chapter, that he has quoted largely from the writings of his American confrères in this specialty. No excuse is made for this procedure, because from no quarter have we derived in these later days so many original observations and suggestions of real practical value as from the members of the American Laryngological Association.

In addition to the unusual thorough subject-matter of the work, the mechanical part, as is usual with Messrs. Lea's publications, is of the highest order, it being evident that no expense has been spared to make it one of the best works of its kind, the article on tubercle, syphilis and diphtheria being especially worthy of mention. Although quite complete enough for the use of specialists, it is at the same time so clear as to be of daily value to the general practitioner, who will find at the end of the volume a number of well tried formulas most in vogue at the London hospitals for diseases of the throat. The book may be obtained through Mr. Renouf, book-seller, Montreal, or directly from the publishers.

A MANUAL FOR BOARDS OF HEALTH AND HEALTH OFFICERS.—By Lewis Balch, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary State Board of Health of New York; Health Officer of Albany; Emeritus Professor of Anatomy; and Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Albany Medical College.

The Secretary of the State Board of Health, Dr. Lewis Balch, has prepared a Manual for the use of members of local Boards of Health, Health Officers and all others interested in health matters. The book is exactly what it purports to be, a practical working manual. It defines the powers of the State and Local Boards, it contains direction to the Local Health Officer, it gives examples of problems which may arise and their solution, it offers suggestions for the prevention of disease, and it includes directions to be followed in times of danger from epidemics of contagious diseases. Price \$1.50, delivered upon receipt of price. Banks & Brothers, Albany, N.Y.