

sented in a pleasing, vigorous style, that is most refreshing to meet with.

The illustrations are clear and distinct, and the workmanship, as to both printing and binding, is admirably executed, and does credit to the well known publishers.

The Complete Hand-book of Obstetric Surgery, or short rules of practice in every emergency, from the simplest to the most formidable operations connected with the science of Obstetrics, with numerous illustrations. By CHARLES CLAY, M.D., late senior Surgeon and Lecturer on Midwifery, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London, Hon. member of the Louisville Obstetrical Society, late President of the Medical Society, Manchester, &c. Third Edition: Lindsay & Blackiston, Philadelphia, 1874. Montreal; Dawson Bros. Price \$2.25.

The modest title of "complete handbook" suggests much complacency and self-satisfaction as to the perfection of the work on the part of its author.

We are free to commend it as embodying very many valuable rules of practice, but find that like other human productions it cannot be called "complete." A thorough exhaustive of the whole subject treated of, could not be expected in a small work of some 300 pages. There may be some compensating advantage in small hand-books, that can be carried round in the pocket for reference, but we believe that critical seasons present no opportunity for consulting your pocket companion.

In the little book before us we notice what may well be called some grave omissions and a few small errors: when speaking of tying the cord, the author says nothing about the advantage of allowing a few drops of blood to escape when a child is still-born and there is capillary congestion. Such a procedure favors the establishment of respiration and often saves the child's life.

It seems strange that any writer of the present day should recommend the use of glass specula, or single curved forceps, yet such are the views of Dr. Clay, from which the best authors of the day strongly dissent.

With regard to the discovery of the placenta the author has quite overlooked the fact that the cleanliness and comfort of the patient can

be secured by the use of a quart bowl for the reception of the liquor amni and placenta: also, says nothing of the aid that can be given, both to the passage of the head and protection of the perineum, by the now well-known process of enucleation, when the occiput is well under the arch of the pelvis. The fact that the hand pressed over the body of the uterus during the last pain that expels the child generally causes the placenta to descend and occupy the vagina as the child passes into the world, is not mentioned.

In the treatment of post partum hemorrhage it is strange that the author does not so much as refer to the use of the solution of per-chloride of iron, the most efficacious and speedy of all known methods for arresting hæmorrhage where life is in imminent danger.

With regard to irregular contractions of the uterus and irregular labor, while we readily admit the character of such labors may generally be changed to a natural one by an opiate, yet such desired result cannot be secured in other cases where the trouble is due to decidual adhesions around the os, where detachment of the membranes or their rupture alone can accomplish it, as recommended by authors.

Much doubtless can be said to the praise of the little work, but we have thought it right to point out some serious defects that appeared to us in glancing through its pages.

A Manual of Toxicology, including the Consideration of the Nature, Properties, Effects, and Means of Detection of Poisons, more especially in their medico legal Relations. By JOHN J. REESE, M.D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia; J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1874. Montreal; Dawson Bros.

The author of this book, in his preface, has anticipated the objection that, in view of the many excellent existing treatises on toxicology, in various languages, a new work on the subject was uncalled for. "This objection," he says, "however, might be equally urged against new publications in almost every department of science, there is scarcely one, of which it may not be affirmed, that its literature is abundantly supplied. Yet this does not deter new authors from venturing before the public, prompted,