

devoting our remedial measures to some distant organ, whose sympathetic connections have given origin to the whole train of symptoms.

In defining the terms "*irritability and sedation*," as they are employed in the volume, and to convey the idea of the meaning to be attached to them, the author uses the following language :

"By the *irritability* of tissues is simply meant a capability of receiving impressions from surrounding agents, and thus producing phenomena, and is only to be observed when these tissues are alive. It is the "*capability of being acted upon*." It of course belongs to everything which has life ; to plants as well as animals ; to the organic molecular cell as truly as to the most complicated and perfect structure," and in continuation, and by way of distinction he remarks, "*the agents which excite or disturb the irritability of tissues are termed Irritants. Those which depress or diminish its intensity, are called Sedatives. An irritant, acting on the irritability of a part, produces an irritation. A sedative causes a state of sedation. The one is an exaltation, the other a diminution of vital excitements, but by no means implying on the part or parts a loss of power or debility.*"

The only disease treated of under the latter, is that variety of amenorrhœa, when it is not connected with or dependent upon organic alterations of the uterus or appendages, but whose chief characteristics are *anæmia emaciation and even chlorosis*. While under the heading of the former, and general type of irritable uterus, the author has considered the other common disorders of the catamenial function, as well as those peculiar conditions which are the result of either uterine congestion or uterine inflammation ; and as contingent upon such conditions of the uterus and its appendages, he has devoted a chapter to the consideration of those reflex or sympathetic irritations whether noticed in the rectum, vulva and vagina, bladder and urethra, lymphatic glands or pelvic nerves, which are so commonly encountered.

But the principal part of the work is occupied with the consideration of displacements of the uterus, whether these assume the form of anti or retro flexion, or anti or retro version, or whether they exist in the form of lateral displacements. Indeed although no part of the volume is not eminently deserving of perusal and study, we think that the nine chapters devoted to this subject, are especially so, and we know of no more valuable monograph upon the symptoms, prognosis, and management of these annoying maladies than is constituted by this part of the work. It is true, that upon this subject, as well as upon several others, there are points upon which we may not be mutually agreed, and indeed in several instances it has appeared to us that the author has pushed his conclusions too far, but nevertheless, considering the work as a whole, we cannot but regard it as one of the most original and most practical works of the day ; one which every accoucheur and physician should most carefully read ; for we are persuaded that he will arise from its perusal with new ideas, which will induct him into a more rational practice in regard to many a suffering female, who may have placed her health in his hands.

We congratulate the author on this his first production, and the publishers on the excellent manner in which their duties have been discharged.