

of the committee may prove to be of but temporary value, nevertheless we cannot but believe that in the publication of this report, an enormous and, it may be an epoch-making stride forward has been made; for now at length there is in the hands of bacteriologists, an authoritative recommendation of what is necessary in the study of species of bacteria for publication, and henceforth there will be no excuse for imperfect descriptions. At the same time the report will necessarily afford abundant work for younger bacteriologists to review previous descriptions and to publish standard descriptions of bacteria, pathogenic and non-pathogenic. In fact, a remarkable impetus will be given to exact bacteriological research. J. G. A.

**Conservative Gynæcology and Electro-Therapeutics.** By G. BETTON MASSEY, M.D. Third Edition. Philadelphia, New York, Chicago: The F. A. Davis Company, Publishers.

This book is an enlargement of a former treatise which dealt with the use of electricity in fibroid tumours and certain other affections. In its present shape the author claims that it is "A Treatise on the Medical and Surgical Diseases of Women, with special reference to the therapeutic use of electricity."

In reviewing this work it is necessary to regard it from two standpoints, viz., as a guide to the technique of electrical applications, and as a manual dealing with the treatment of gynæcological affections.

As regards the first of these, it must be freely conceded that the book deals freely and minutely with electrical appliances and the method of using them.

Considered in relation to the practice of gynæcology, however, the work can only be regarded as highly unsatisfactory.

It is an elaborate plea for the employment of electricity as a therapeutic agent, the consideration which is given to other forms of treatment being scanty and extremely ill-balanced. Indeed, from the point of view of the scientific study of gynæcology, the book fails sadly in the direction of giving to things their proper proportional values.

Its fantastic advocacy of the value of electricity smacks too strongly of the extravagantly praised and highly advertised universal panacea or healing elixir.

The author has a special animus against the gynæcologist who flourishes the bloody knife, and, in his effort to overthrow this horrid man, with his electric buttons and needles, only succeeds in illustrating that "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself and falls to the other." "Conservative Gynæcology," forsooth! The very name is an unwarrantable one. As if conservatism and electrification were synonymous terms. The *rationale* of conservatism in medicine lies in the wise endeavour to understand the meaning and application of the "*vis medicatrix*