

The International Text Book of Surgery. By American and British authors. Edited by J. Collins Warren, M.D., LL.D., and A. Pearce Gould, M.D., F.R.C.S. Publishers, W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia. J. A. Carveth & Co., Toronto, Ont.

The first volume of this splendid work, devoted chiefly to general surgery, is certainly a credit to the editors, and again demonstrates that the ever-widening field of surgery is best treated by several authors. The body of the text is in large clear type, supplemented by numerous short paragraphs in smaller type where the subject matter is not so important—an excellent system enabling the reader to review a subject more rapidly. The illustrations and colored plates are numerous and good. The treatment of the various subjects is essentially modern, and antiquated theories and methods are not rehearsed to the detriment of the more satisfactory ones of to-day. The chapter on the technic of aseptic surgery is very good, showing as it does the reaction from unnecessarily elaborate methods to a simple yet most complete method. The treatment of each malady is very fully considered and must be most helpful. It is a work equally beneficial to student and practitioner as a complete modern reference work.

G. F.

A Practical Treatise on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. By Roberts Bartholow, M.A., M.D., LL.D. Pp. 866. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1899. Tenth edition, revised and enlarged.

Of Bartholow's work, which has been before the profession now for twenty-three years, there is little new to say. The author, as evidenced by this tenth revised edition, still writes as clearly and succinctly as ever. To one reading the volume for the first time, it is a marvel of compactness and completeness, with a welcome absence of discussion, which, valuable as it may be to the advanced pharmacologist, is irritating and confusing to a student and unsatisfactory to the general practitioner. It is essentially a practical work. Of the classification nothing need be said, it is practical; and as no classification of drugs that is practical is perfect, or being perfect is practical, it is perhaps as good as any, although Cushny's, of Michigan, based on that of Buchheim and Schmiedeberg, of Strassburg, is perhaps preferable. The section on alimentation is excellent, and brief enough to be easily carried. Its vast importance merits its position in the book. An extended review is impossible with the space at my disposal, but I am rather surprised to see the chloride of iron and chlorate of potassium treatment still retained for diphtheria, while the subject of antitoxines is dismissed with three pages, and the statement that 'a candid survey of the whole field constrains him to say that the practical outcome is short of the success which seemed warranted by the pretensions put forward by the original promoters.' If this refers to the whole field of diseases known to be of microbic origin, the statement is, in our present stage of experiment, unfortunately largely true, but the brilliant results in two or three diseases augur well for ultimate success in others. Coming from a recognized