

description of the instruments used in sounding the rectum, and their mode of application, to which is added an appendix on the ligation of hemorrhoidal tumors.

The book deals practically with a subject about which very little is said in our ordinary surgical works. The work is creditable to the author, and is well worthy a careful perusal. It may be ordered through Copp, Clark & Co.

We have also received from W. Wood & Co., through Copp, Clark & Co., "The Theory and Practice of Obstetrics," by Byford, and "Lay Sermons and Addresses and Services," by The Rev. Henry Huxley, LL.D., F.R.S., from Adam Stevenson & Co., Toronto, but as they came to hand just before going to press, we will review them in our next number.

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*Half yearly compend of Medical Science.*

" " *Abstract of* " " "

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Dr. Chariton Bastian states, in a letter to the *Times*, that he has made experiments which he believes go far towards the settlement of the vexed question as to the possibility of a so-called "spontaneous generation" of living things. He says that he has come to the conclusion that organisms are to be met with in hermetically-sealed vessels from which all air has been removed, and after the contained fluids have been raised to a very high temperature. He will shortly submit to the Royal Society a full account of his experiments. The letter we are quoting is a criticism on Professor Tyndall's arguments for the germ theory of disease, which Dr. Bastian urges are only good on the assumption that the low organisms, usually associated with putrefactive stages, spring up *de novo* without parentage.—*London Medical Times and Gazette.*