

suggestive. He claims that influenza should be treated like scarlet fever or any other contagious disease and that in every case the patient should be promptly isolated and notification made to the municipal health authority in terms of the British Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, which he prints in full as an appendix to this volume. Whether the disease is spread by contagion only or no, there is sufficient evidence to show that it is readily spread by contagion and some such precautions as Dr. Sisley suggests seem eminently desirable in the interests of public health. Several of his illustrations, especially from the epidemics of 1782 and 1833 are very startling. The title of the volume, "Notes," describes fairly well the character. There is no pretence at exhaustive treatment of the subject. But as a contribution to the study of an alarming epidemic of a certain serious and somewhat mysterious character it cannot fail to be both helpful and suggestive to the scientific medical practitioner. He quotes a definition of the disease which is about the best we have seen:—"Influenza is a specific fever, epidemic and often pandemic, of sudden onset and short duration, attended with loss of appetite and very great prostration, associated often with more or less severe catarrh, neuralgic pains or gastro-intestinal disturbance, and especially liable to be complicated by severe respiratory affections to which the mortality of the disease is chiefly due." He considers the definition faulty by omitting any reference to its contagiousness. Moreover some of the pains are not neuralgic but muscular. Otherwise it is a good definition. We cordially commend this brochure.

TREATISE ON GYNECOLOGY, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.
P. T. Pozzi, M. D., Professeur Agrégé à la Faculté de Médecine; Chirurgien de l'Hôpital Lourcine Pascal, Paris; Honorary Fellow of American Gynecological Society. Translated from the French edition under the supervision of and with additions by Brooks H. Wells, M. D., Lecturer on Gynecology at the New York Polyclinic; Fellow of the New York Obstetrical Society and the New York Academy of Medicine. Volume I, with 305 wood engravings and six full page plates in colors. New York. William Wood and Company, 1891.

This is beyond doubt the very best work on gynecology existing at the present day. We had the pleasure of meeting the talented author nearly every day at Martin's or Olshausen's or Gusserow's Clinic in Berlin four years ago and little thought that so young a man, who, however was always taking copious notes, would so shortly reach the proud distinction which the production of this book has given him. As the American editor truly says "The cosmopolitan spirit of its author shown in his exhaustive research and judicious appreciation of the work of other nations, together with his keen and mature judgment in utilizing the material from his own rich clinical fields, make it a clear and reliable guide to the most advanced and best practice in this specialty.

From the author's preface to the French edition we quote the following significant paragraph:—"It is impossible to ignore the great prominence which gynecology has everywhere assumed. The origin of its rapid progress is easy to trace. By the introduction of antiseptics a new era was opened to gynecology as well as to general surgery. Active intervention has become almost free from danger in many diseases which used to be aban-

doned to palliative or expectant treatment. Thanks to antiseptics new operations have been invented and old ones restored to favor. Some of the latter had been boldly conceived and brilliantly executed by our predecessors, but the terrific mortality due to surgical uncleanness had caused their abandonment. Such was the case with ovariectomy, vaginal hysterectomy, curetting and even shortening the round ligaments; their present use is merely a revival. Not so very long ago a good operator was a good surgeon; the two terms being almost synonymous. This is no longer the case. It has become of even more importance to avoid infection of the wound than to operate brilliantly."

Antisepsis takes up the first thirty pages; anaesthesia, control of hemorrhage and closure of wounds the next fifty; and gynecological examinations the fifty following pages. Nearly a hundred pages are devoted to metritis and its treatment, while the next hundred and sixteen pages are devoted to fibroids. These interesting and lately very common tumors receive a very thorough handling, the chapter on diagnosis being very complete. The treatment is viewed very fairly, equal prominence being given to all the various methods both medical and surgical. Indeed the spirit of fairness is very characteristic of the work, so that the views expressed by the author may safely be taken as the general consensus or average of opinion at the present day. Nearly one hundred pages are devoted to cancer of the uterus, the mortality up to date of the various operations being included. Displacements receive an exhaustive treatment with one hundred and fifteen pages, but disorders of menstruation are disposed of in twenty-two pages; but as they are generally symptoms of other diseases they have all been referred to already under other headings.

Two other points deserve especial mention: the liberality of the publishers in allowing no less than 305 illustrations besides the colored plates, and last but not least the charming manner in which the American editor and translator, Dr. Brooks H. Wells has performed his arduous task. In fact his easy and elegant English is the exact counterpart of Pozzi's beautiful colloquial French which lends such a charm both to his speaking and writing.

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