

BOOK REVIEWS

OBSTETRICS.

The practice of obstetrics, designed for the use of students and practitioners of medicine, by J. Clifton Edgar, Professor of Obstetrics and Clinical Midwifery in the Cornell University Medical College; visiting obstetrician to Bellevue Hospital, New York City; surgeon to the Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary; consulting obstetrician to the New York Maternity and Jewish Maternity Hospitals. Fourth edition, revised, twenty-second thousand, with 1,316 illustrations, including five colored plates and 36 figures printed in colors. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Sons & Company, 1012 Walnut Street, 1913. Price, in cloth, \$6.00.

This superb volume of nearly eleven hundred pages is not unduly thick, as very excellent but thin quality of paper has been chosen. The publishers have spared no effort to make this edition as fine a specimen of the book-making art as it is possible to turn out. The paper is of superior quality. The type is clear and of excellent face. The illustrations are well executed and printed, and the binding is substantial and durable. The lover of a fine book would say that this meets all the conditions of critical taste.

But the important part of every book is the text. Professor Edgar is well-known as an author and teacher on the subject of obstetrics. The author states that the work has undergone a thorough revision. The sections on pathology have been largely rewritten. New matter has been added on blood-pressure, sepsis, anaesthesia, vaccine and serum treatment, pelvimentry, funnel pelvis, haemorrhage in the newly born, pubiotomy, extra perritoneal Caesarean section, and the Momburg belt for haemorrhage. Fifty-one of the illustrations are new. The author follows an orderly and scientific method of division of the subject. The physiology of the female genital organs is followed by the physiology of pregnancy, and this in turn by the pathology of pregnancy. Next is taken up the physiology of labor, and then the pathology of labor, divided into a series of sub-sections. The physiology and pathology of the puerperium are then discussed fully. This is followed by the pathology of the newly born. The book ends with a complete account of obstetric operations. It would not be possible to go over all the many valuable points raised by the author. On the subject of vaccines in the treatment of puerperal sepsis, he does not speak highly. On the other hand, he recommends the use of polyvalent serum. He condemns the use of the curette in streptococcal infection, as it only breaks down the defence tissue and aids the inroad of further infection. In cases of ordinary sapraemia from the retention of some decomposing tissue the curette is useful. Turn to any portion of the book and sound advice