Book Notices.

Annuaire de l'Université Laval pour l'Année Académique 1878-79, Quebec.

Tenth Annual Report of the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary, 108 Shuter Street, 1878.

Ecole de Medicine et de Chirurgie de Montreal. Session 1878-79.

Annual Address delivered before the Canada Medical Association, Hamilton, Sept., 1878. By JOSEPH WORKMAN, M.D., President.

Contributions to the Pathological Anatomy of the Eye. By Dr. ADOLPH ALT, of Toronto. Reprinted from the *Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology,* Vol. VI., Nos. 3 and 4.

Annual Reports of the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service of the United States for the fiscal years 1876 and 1877. JOHN M. WOODWORTH, M.D., Washington, Government Printing Office, 1878.

Playfair's System of Midwifery. Second American, from the second revised London edition. 8vo., pages 639. Philadelphia : Henry C. Lea ; Toronto : Hart & Rawlinson.

Of making many books there is no end, and the issue of new editions is a weariness to the pocket, but if all books issuing from the medical press were of the character and value of Playfair's midwifery, we are bound to say the old axiom would lose much of its force. This work bears the same relation to the obstetric literature of to-day, that Tyler Smith's lectures did to that of his time being the best work on the subject now published in the English language. It is written in a clear, pleasant style, without that verbosity which characterizes some modern and highly pretentious works. The author is quite up with the times, both in practice and theory. He adopts exfoliation of the mucous membrane in menstruation, as taught formerly by Tyler Smith, and more recently by John Williams. He approves of the early use of the forceps in delayed labours, and strongly advises the administration of chloral in 15 gr. doses every fifteen minutes till three doses are given, for the relief of the cutting pains of the first stage. It is the best text-book we have for students, and sufficiently full of detail to supply all the wants of the practitioner. We would gladly see it in the hands of all who practise midwifery.

We notice very few typographical errors, the most important being that in connexion with wood-cut 98, page 264, from Hodge, which represents the head coming through the pelvis in the second position, but erroneously calls it the third.

We have to take exception to the author's account of the expulsion of the placenta when he says "that if it be allowed to come away without traction on the cord, the uterine surface is generally expelled first." We have carefully observed this point since it was noticed by Leishman and Matthews Duncan, and have satisfied ourselves that while it does often come away thus, it also comes away with the foetal surface first in by no means a small proportion of cases, even when no traction whatever has been made on the cord ; and we believe that the manner of its expulsion depends quite as much upon the site of its attachment to the uterus as upon the application of force.

We believe, that if the placenta be attached to the uterine surface, in what may be called its central zone, or below it, the mass will be expelled either with the uterine surface in advance, or folded laterally, presenting its edge first, as described by the authors named, but if it be attached to the fundus or above the middle of the uterine wall, it is more apt to come away with the foetal surface first just as if traction had been exerted through the cord ; and moreover, we think the adhesion or separation of the membranes on the shortest side between the placental site and the os uteri, as the placenta comes down, determines whether the foetal or uterine surface shall come first.

We fully endorse what the author says in regard to the removal of the ovum in protracted abortion, when he recommends the administration of chloroform and the introduction of the whole hand into the vagina, and the fingers into the uterus. "In this way," he says, "the complete detachment of the ovum can be far more safely and readily effected than by using any of the many ovum forceps which have been invented for the purpose."