

## REVIEWS.

*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women.*  
By GAILLORD THOMAS, M.D., Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, N.Y., Surgeon to the New York State Women's Hospital, Hon. Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London, &c., &c. Fourth Edition, thoroughly revised, with 186 illustrations on wood. Published by Henry C. Lea, Philadelphia: Montreal, Dawson, Bros.

To favorably notice a treatise that has already attained its 4th edition within five years, that has been translated into German, and is now being prepared for the French and Italian press, is a work of supererogation so far as commending it to the profession is concerned, but is nevertheless one of the most pleasing duties that falls to the lot of the reviewer.

The first chapter is devoted to a most instructive and able summary of gynecological history, wherein we learn that many of the most useful of recent discoveries are but the reproductions of past ages that have been long lost to science. Notably is this the case with reference to the uterine sound and vaginal speculum.

The second chapter is occupied with most valuable information upon the important subject of the etiology of uterine disease. Improperities in dress, and want of care during menstruation and after parturition, are treated with well merited condemnation as fruitful sources of disease.

Chapter iii., on the diagnosis of diseases of the genital organs, is a succinct summary of all the known modes of investigation together with clear instructions as to their use in order to attain satisfactory results.

Chapter iv., on diseases of the vulva, gives a complete description of the diseases of this part, without reference to specific diseases common to it and other parts of the body.

Chapter v. is devoted to rupture of the perineum, and not only details the various modes of procedure, but illustrates the subject with original drawings that cannot fail to impress a clear conception of the appropriate treatment upon the mind.

Chapters vi. and vii. are devoted to diseases of the vagina.

Chapter viii.—On atresia vaginæ. We note with pleasure that, among the various methods

of evacuating retained menstrual blood, the aspirator is strongly recommended as a preliminary procedure, to the operation, necessary to render the outlet potent per via naturalis. This course very materially lessens the danger to the life of the patient.

Chapter x. gives an exhaustive catalogue of urinary, fecal and simple vaginal fistulæ; among the latter we notice a rare form, not mentioned by other writers, viz., vesico-utero-vaginal fistula. The whole subject is handled with skill, and the various instruments required to perform the operation, together with the operation itself, are illustrated by drawings, some of which are original.

Chapter xii. is occupied with general considerations upon uterine pathology and treatment. The causes of failure in therapeutics are treated at length, and deserve the careful attention of all who occupy themselves with this branch of the profession.

Chapter xiii. deals with acute endometritis and its complications. The authors deem acute parenchymatous *metritis*, as a primary affection, to be of rare occurrence, and that it should occupy a subordinate place in pathology. This view is supported by very able argument, and will doubtless carry conviction of its truthfulness to those who take the trouble to thoroughly investigate the subject.

Chapter xiv., on chronic cervical endometritis gives a complete exposition of the predisposing and exciting causes of this most common and important form of uterine disease. In the treatment the author gives a number of original wood cut illustrations of the various instruments recommended. One point of no small moment in the application of liquid caustics is overlooked, viz., directions for protecting the adjacent structures from injury; which can easily be accomplished by flooding the neck up to the cervical canal with a neutralizing solution.

We are glad to see that Dr. Thomas does not favour the use of nitrate of silver, as it is not so powerful an agent as the fuming nitric acid. This is quite true, but he might have gone a step further and reprobated its use on the ground of its favoring obliteration of the cervical canal; a result that is not unfrequently obtained by means of this agent.

The use of the curette is spoken of, and its value in the treatment of obstinate cases of