

We do not subscribe to the following practice in vaginal examinations. "Position on back, covered completely, aperture in sheet for speculum," by which is meant, that the patient be covered by a sheet with a hole in it, opposite the vulva, for the insertion of the instrument, instead of using it in the common obstetric position, and scarcely necessitating exposure, as in the simple plan followed without parade or indecency.

If there be any part of Dr. C.'s work better than the rest, it is that in which he arranges and discusses the various forms of uterine hæmorrhage. We observe that he touches on several practical topics, recently much noticed, as primary removal of placenta in placenta prævia, placental apoplexy, value of chloroform, &c. The greatest novelty to us is the alum plug, or the application to the cervix of a lump of alum. Whether it is the Doctor's own or not we are uncertain: we rather think not; as he gives us to understand his work is but a compilation, and makes no pretensions to originality. This last circumstance should have cautioned him against recording statements as true, which are really of very questionable veracity. He says, "the menses is blood mixed with vaginal mucus and uterine epithelium," and as he has given no authority for this, we must be doubtful as to its source. We know that Bouchardat shewed that the elements of this fluid are those of arterial blood; but this does not establish an identity, for when the analysis is extended, it is found the proportions vary, and the blood globules have lost important characters; so that the menstrual fluid is a secretion: a view made more evident by the researches of LeCann and Denis, which prove that it contains more water, less albumen and globules than blood. So great are the differences that medical jurists have thesis for the discrimination of the stains of the two, and accoucheurs have long since recognised profuse menstruation from uterine hæmorrhage. Dr. C. is right about its admixture, but it would have been more correct to have said with utero vaginal mucus and epithelium.

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**XVIII.**—*Diseases of the Liver.* By GEORGE BUDD, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Medicine in King's College, London, and Fellow of Caius' College, Cambridge. Second American, from the last improved London edition. With Colored Plates and Woodcuts. Pp. 468. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson.

This, the last edition of Dr. Budd's invaluable treatise on diseases of the liver, has been brought out in first-rate style, capitally finished, well printed, on excellent paper, in clear type, and illustrated by four splendid plates, the coloring of which is admirable, and done with singular beauty