

this city above referred to. He never engaged in practice nor identified himself directly with the profession of which he was an ornament, but he was in active sympathy with everything which tended to advance its best interests. He was possessed of more than ordinary intellectual attainments, a thorough gentleman and highly esteemed by all classes of the community. His loss will be deeply felt by all who knew him intimately. His funeral was largely attended by professors and students of all the schools, the members of the profession and the general public. His wife died only a short time ago. The family have our deepest sympathy in their affliction.

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### Books and Pamphlets.

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A TEXT-BOOK ON SURGERY. General, Operative, and Mechanical. By J. A. Wyeth, M.D., Prof. of Surgery, N. Y. Polyclinic. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1887.

To many Canadians who have visited New York, this new candidate for the commendation of the lecturer, and the approbation of the student and the practitioner, will recall pleasant recollections of its author. They will remember that as demonstrator of Anatomy, at Bellevue, a dozen or more years ago, he used to dissect rapidly and accurately *before the class*, the subjects used to illustrate Dr. Crosby's lectures. The fame he has won since then by his original investigations in regard to the surgical anatomy of certain arteries they will not have forgotten. As secretary of and a moving spirit in the N. Y. Polyclinic, he has contributed in no small degree to the success of an institution which has brought over the Atlantic for us those peculiar methods of teaching which have made Vienna famous the world over. He has also as President of the N. Y. Path. Soc'y, as Surgeon to Mount Sinai and other hospitals, and as a teacher of operative and clinical surgery done much good work, and has enthused numberless others with his own tireless desire not simply to know and to practise, but also to advance the art of surgery. If it be granted that after such an experience Dr. Wyeth is a fit and proper person to write a text-book on surgery, it may still be asked: "Have we any need for such a work? With Ashhuret, Agnew, Bryant, Erichsen, Gross, Holmes, Hamilton, and

Treeves, to choose from, why seek we for another? The best work on surgery for use in student days will, we take it, be one which within the compass of a single volume teaches clearly and attractively the latest certainties of surgical science, bringing out most strongly those things which it is important the memory should retain, and rigidly excluding all extended discussion upon theories just advanced or long exploded, as well as all unimportant details. From the list given above we can, on account of their bulk, exclude the works of Agnew, Erichsen and Gross. Students have no time to master them, and it is better and safer in every way to know a smaller work well than to know something about a large one. Dr. Hamilton's fame rests securely upon his great work on "Fractures and Dislocations," and it has been advanced but little by his general treatise on surgery which took a decade to reach its second edition. As he was out of practice for some years before this last edition was called for, and out of sympathy with many of the more recent advances on surgical practice, his book is not one to which we can assign a first place. After a somewhat close examination of Dr. Wyeth's Text-book we are of opinion that with any of the others named it can hold its own, while in certain particulars it is the undoubted superior of any work hitherto before the profession. Its readers will have nothing derived from its study to unlearn. Its teachings are the accepted ones of to-day, while within its nearly 800 pages we have found but very few superfluous sentences. As in speaking, so in writing, Dr. Wyeth has a way of getting at the pith of a matter, and he wastes no words in stating his conclusions.

Aseptic surgery is taught in such manner as to make the application of its principles easily available in back-woods cabins and in city tenements. No other work extant brings out so clearly the changes which have taken place in this department of surgery within the last ten years. Perhaps the strongest chapter in the book is, as might have been expected, that on the ligation of arteries. Artistically and anatomically the 27 colored plates which illustrate this part are superior to any that have appeared before this in a general treatise. The illustrations in the entire work have cost, we are informed, over \$7,000, and they are mostly new or being from recent German sources, will be new to a large proportion of readers here. An interesting cut is that showing the author's case of genu valgum and varus in the same patient straightened by a double osteotomy. Another represents the result obtained by Humphrey's operation, the transplantation of the urethra to