

occurred six times ; twice after forceps, attributable to profound anæsthesia. Ergot was given in all the cases ; in two ice was applied externally over the uterus. All made good recoveries.

Active mania developed in one case. In her delirium she jumped out of bed, and walked across the cold floor in her bare feet ; a severe pelvic cellulitis was the result, suppuration set in, and she died exhausted six weeks after confinement, the maniacal condition persisting unabated to the very end. Like many other patients in this department, she was in a low state of health on admission, and was suffering from considerable mental depression. This was the only death in the obstetrical department during the year ; with the exception of a few cases of cellulitis following labor, all the other patients made a rapid convalescence.

Of the *children*, three died some time prior to confinement, two died shortly after, one from obstruction of the colon, the other from rupture of a spina bifida. Nearly all the children were sent to the Foundling Hospital.

The strictest antiseptic precautions are carried out in the treatment of all obstetric cases. Each ward is periodically vacated, and then thoroughly cleansed and fumigated. The beds are of straw, and are renewed frequently. In giving the vaginal douche, a new syringe is used for each patient ; and as far as possible everything is done to obviate the dangers which arise from the congregation of lying-in cases.

REVIEWS.

The Opium Habit and Alcoholism. By DR. FRED. HEMAN HUBBARD. A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

The medical man who reads this work will do so with very mixed feelings. He must acknowledge that the author has a practical knowledge of the subjects under discussion, and yet upon almost every page there are indications that he lacks the literary acquirements necessary to present his views in a readable manner. Even this failing might be overlooked in view of the valuable hints and suggestions to be found throughout his book if he did not persist in introducing subjects but faintly suggestive of the title page.

To speak of the deleterious effects of opium, alcohol, Indian hemp, etc., and to furnish an account of cases illustrative of his methods of treatment, is

Dr. Hubbard's safe path to the respect and thanks of his Medical audience, but when he gives a long, unconnected lecture on the pathology, causes and treatment of neuralgia (pages 128-135), one cannot help drawing a comparison between Anstie's monograph and Dr. Hubbard's efforts not at all favorable to the latter. Similarly with the subject of dyspepsia. No less than twenty-six pages (pp. 210-236) are devoted to the causes, pathology, treatment, etc., of various forms of indigestion. Even if the subject were properly and carefully handled (and we cannot conceal the fact that it is not), it would be altogether out of place in a book of this kind. Should the work ever reach a second edition, and for the sake of the many good things in it we hope it may, it would certainly add to its attractiveness if the dyspeptic part were omitted. If that cannot be done, the author might profitably consult Habershon on Diseases of the Stomach before re-writing it.

Just as far as an author strays from a subject that he is familiar with and treats of other matters of which he knows but very little, just to that extent is he in danger of making himself ridiculous, and when we are informed in the little essay on the *tania solium* (page 231) that the term "pruritus" is synonymous with "itching of the nose," and that (page 161) "according to the nomenclature adopted by the profession the term alcohol includes all beverages containing alcohol," or when he speaks of (page 150) "a profuse secretion from the Schneiderian membranes lining the nasal fossæ," or (page 134) of "inhaling the steam from pot. nit," or when he asserts on page 166 that fifteen drops of extract of ipecac will vomit the patient freely," we cannot help harboring the suspicion that Dr. Hubbard has but a very hazy idea of what he is talking about.

We are aware that there is a certain looseness about the "prescription" style of many American authors which does not furnish a proper index of the value to be placed on the works in which it may be detected, but, making all allowance for that fact, surely such formulæ as the following are unpardonable "in a book written for professional men" :

R Iodide lime.....gr x
 Phosphate iron..... 3j
 Quinine..... 3
 Lactopeptine..... 3ij
 Syrup simple..... ʒ v

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