

NOTE ON THE HYSTERICAL CONCOMITANTS OF ORGANIC NERVOUS DISEASE. By C. H. Hughes, M. D., St. Louis. Reprint from the *Alienist and Neurologist*, July, 1892, St. Louis.

### BOOK NOTICES.

#### DISEASES OF WOMEN AND ABDOMINAL SURGERY.

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This is such a remarkable work by a truly remarkable man that it is difficult to criticise it unless in the sense of according it the highest praise. As the author says in his preface, its greatest claim is its entire originality. The whole book is an account of the author's own personal experience, which has been an unusually large one with the diseases of which he speaks. Hundreds of cases are recorded in a frank and easy style which makes the book unusually interesting reading. Indeed the writer of this notice has found it difficult to lay it down once it has been taken up, so well is the interest maintained. Whether the case ended in recovery or death does not seem to have prevented the author from reporting it fully, and as a rule he also gives in full the names and addresses of the medical attendants who were associated with him or who sent the cases to him. The writer of this notice has always had a perfect faith in the author's statements; but if he had not had it he could not have perused this work without coming to the conclusion that it is the production of an enthusiastic but thoroughly honest surgeon. With some of his methods of treatment of course we do not agree. Our own experience has shown us, for instance, that the majority of bleeding myomas can be practically cured by electricity, while when this fails abdominal hysterotomy offers a certain and comparatively safe result. In the work before us, as is well known, the author advocates removal of the

appendages as the treatment by preference, although even this sometimes fails to arrest the hemorrhage. Even the author's most bitter opponents, however, must admit that pelvic and abdominal surgery is under an immense debt of gratitude to the talented author for the wonderful progress he has made in these branches of our art.

The arrangement of this work is especially worthy of praise, and is the one followed by the writer in his lectures. Starting from the "*Mons veneris*" which occupies the first chapter, he proceeds to diseases of the vulva, the chapter on which includes the labia majora, labia minora, hymen and carunculæ myrtiformes, the clitoris, the meatus urinarius vulvovaginal glands and perineum. Chapter III. includes the vagina, urethra and bladder. Chapter IV. comprises 100 pages devoted to the uterus, subdivided into diseases of the os, cervix and fundus. Chapter V. is on the broad ligaments and mesentery, Chapter VI. on the fallopian tubes, Chapter VII. on the ovaries, Chapter VIII. on ectopic pregnancy and pelvic hæmatocele. In this last chapter does the author shine to the greatest advantage, for he may be said to have created this branch of our work. It is he who has pointed out that all extratubal pregnancy is tubal, and that this is due to disease of the lining membrane of the tubes. He has made us see that the tubes as well as the uterus and ovaries are outside of the peritoneum, and that when rupture first occurs it generally does so in the line of least resistance, namely, between the folds of the broad ligament, and that it is only when the case has failed to be diagnosed and the diseased structures removed that a second rupture takes place through the peritoneum into its cavity.

Where every page bears the impress of the individuality of a master mind it is difficult to point out the most salient points. The book must be read and studied in order to be appreciated. While of especial value to the specialist, it is greatly to be desired that it should be in the hands of the advanced general practitioner, who might thus be on the lookout for those cases of life and death which if detected early might be saved, but which if left to their fate must nearly always terminate in death. We await with impatience the appearance of the second volume, which will probably be entirely devoted to abdominal surgery. As Lawson Tait can justly claim to be the greatest abdominal surgeon who has ever lived, his experience far exceeding that of any other surgeon, we are anxious to learn the details of those methods by which he has reduced the mortality of abdominal operations to an average of only three or four per cent., and we can promise that when it does appear it will meet with a reception no less cordial than that which has greeted volume the first.