

Diseases of Women: including their Pathology, Causation, Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment. A Manual for Students and Practitioners. By ARTHUR W. EDIS, M.D., Lond., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Assistant Obstetric Physician to the Middlesex Hospital. With 148 illustrations. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co. 1882.

To the reader of current English Gynæcological periodical literature, the high excellence of this latest manual on the Diseases of Women will not be a matter of surprise, for to him the author of the present treatise will be well and favourably known. Among British works upon the subject, so far as we are acquainted with them, and we think we are familiar with the chief, that of Barnes alone will bear favourable comparison with this the latest, and perhaps, for students' purposes, the best. But it would, in truth, be doing violence to the fact to affirm that the present work is at all capable of superseding the crowning triumphs of American industry and genius in this field, the justly valued works of Thomas and of Emmet. The present volume is divided into 37 chapters, occupying something over 500 pages. It will be seen, therefore, that a large amount of information has had to be compressed within a comparatively small space, for the work has been brought fairly well up to date, and yet, withal, lucidity has been by no means lost in conciseness and condensation. The illustrations are, for the most part, very good, being as the author says "chiefly outline diagrams," and the instrumental armamentarium has not been overlooked or neglected. Barnes and Thomas, with due acknowledgements, have been largely drawn upon, and the author has succeeded in producing a very complete, interesting, and instructive compend of the wide and difficult subject of which he treats. If called upon to select any portion of the work as being of higher excellence than the rest, we should point to the section on Abdominal Tumours as deserving of the highest commendation. We do not know that we have any special, particular fault to find with any part, but had intended to do a little criticism of the chapters *seriatim*. Lack of space in this issue, however, forbids. The merits of the book are nevertheless, so high that we do not hesitate to give it generally the strongest recommendations to our readers.

Miscellaneous.

HYGIENIC MEASURES.—It will be a sort of gratification to know in future that the medical profession has always stood in front rank in the fight for the prevention of sickness. The fight will be a long one but the theory of humanism will be fully practised. It is true that it is no longer lawful to throw away new-born babies that were not wanted or throw to the bloodhounds the old, infirm and moribund; but the study of what ought to be every day, socially, publicly, officially, in the course of life, within the limits of law, and the rules governing industry and commerce amongst the luxuriously rich and the abject poor, is still apt to make the humanitarian weep and the moralist blush.

"To live fast and in enjoyment, though at one's injury, is better than to live in poverty long and sedulously. What is most to be feared is over-population and increasing competition. There is no harm in epidemic wars cutting off the population annually. Such is the charter of our times. The socialists in the cause of public hygiene are in a battle, the aim of which is too high for me to see. In that respect I am myopic. I admire the battle but I cannot sympathize with it."

Who says that? A man who has been called upon to prove that supplying the medical profession of the world with books, and some good ones, of performing old operations skillfully and devising new ones, does not redeem him from coarse thinking, brutal feeling, and idle talking—does not make a noble physician of a mere operator and literary man. My name, I am sorry to say, is Billroth. To him New York fanaticism will feel justified in trying to prove that the medical profession is imbued with the spirit of egotism and barbarism. In the face of such shallow vulgarity, in the presence of the noble profession of the State of New York, in the presence of the tendencies and aims of the humanitarian profession in existence, I am permitted to ask your co-operation in me looking toward the cure of disease and the amelioration of the suffering of human beings.

An Extract from Jacobi's Presidential Address to the Medical Society, State of New York.