

tioned. Descriptions of other makers in simple forceps are even more wanting.

The method of applying is very well illustrated by use of the phantom, and could with benefit be studied by many accoucheurs.

The operation of symphysiotomy has its history given, and its indications and limitations laid down with almost too strict laws. We are sorry to disagree with authors who have given us such an admirable work, but we must take exception to one remark here. They say, "The operation is performed purely in the interests of the child." We simply ask if, by a smart operation, first performed in Canada by Dr. Springle, of Montreal, and many others afterwards, we can save the child, and the mother's feelings, is it not better to do so than save the mother by embryotomy or the child by Cæsarean section, with a two to one chance for the mother? *Verbum sap.*

The binding is good, and the paper, print and cuts are excellent. The half-tone engravings, accountable to the authors themselves, are some of the finest we have ever seen. All students and most practitioners will thank the publishers for having obtained such a work, and for having put it on the market in such superior style. Truly the F. A. Davis Co. have shown themselves superior to any emergency.

AN EPITOME OF CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE.

Low Degrees of Eye Strain a Source of Systemic Disturbance.—Eight years ago I communicated to the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association the notes of two cases in which the ciliary region was proved to be an epileptogenous zone. Both patients completely recovered on the adoption of suitable lenses. That was the first time, so far as I am aware, that the connection between epilepsy and eye strain was noticed. Since that time, I have, when possible, examined the eyes of all patients complaining of headache, giddiness or of other symptoms which might be reflex to an over-exercised ciliary region. The result of this systematic ob-

servation of all such cases goes to show that, in astigmatism, the low degrees are far more potent in producing reflex phenomena than the high degrees; although in hypermetropia the reverse of this obtains. The reason, I think, is not far to seek. In mild astigmatism by an effort of focus perfect vision can be obtained, and the ciliary region persists in making this effort so long as its object can be accomplished. In more pronounced cases, however, no effort of accommodation can produce clear vision, and, if I may so speak, the ciliary region gives up the attempt in despair. It is not then the astigmatism which produces reflex disturbances, but the effort to overcome it.

The effect of peripheral irritation must depend not only upon the degree of such irritation but also upon the excitability of the brain and reflex centres; a fact which is only too obvious when studying the different results of the same amount of eye strain in different subjects.—T. PAGAN LOWE, in *British Medical Journal*.

Clinical Demonstrations on Typhoid Fever.—Typhus fever has almost gone; relapsing fever we never see now; yellow fever has not reached these latitudes for many years; malarial fevers are becoming yearly less frequent; one member only of the old group of the fevers remains in full possession of its rights and privileges, still remains a witness to civic incapacity, to municipal folly, to domestic carelessness, and shall I not add, to professional supineness? Typhoid fever, the autumnal fever of the physician of the latter part of the last and of the beginning of this century, the slow nervous fever of Huxham, still numbers scores of victims in cities, towns and villages; and to-day, as at the beginning of the century, it is the serious fever of the year. No disease demands a more careful and thorough study, since its manifestations are so varied, and the larger your experience the more impressed will you be at the complexity of the picture which it presents. Preliminary to, or rather concurrent with, your observation of the cases in the wards, I would urge you to read the important literature on the subject, of which you will find the following in the library: Louis's great work on typhoid, both the original and the translation, by H. J. Bowditch; Gerhard's articles in the *American Journal of the*