

Book Notices.

Forty-Third Annual Announcement of the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, 1881-82.

Catalogue of Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical, and Scientific Publications. By PRESLEY BLAKISTON, Philadelphia.

Post-partum Atrophy of the Uterus. By WALTER COLES, M.D., St. Louis. (Reprint from St. Louis *Courier of Medicine*.)

Uterine Dilatation with a New Instrument. By H. P. C. WILSON, M.D., Baltimore. (Reprint from *American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*.)

A Blastoid found in the Devonian Rocks of Ontario. By HENRY MONTGOMERY, M.A., B.Sc., Lecturer on Zoology and Botany, Toronto School of Medicine.

Female Diseases, the Result of Errors in Habit and Hygiene during Childhood and Puberty; with Remarks on the Treatment of Rachialgia with Iguir-Puncture. By R. J. NUNN, M.D., Savannah, Ga.

A Compend of Anatomy. By JOHN B. ROBERTS, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: C. C. Roberts & Co.

A short notice of this work appeared in our December number of last year. It seems that the demand for the first edition has necessitated the publication of a second. Of its kind, we can conscientiously say that it is a very good specimen. To the whole tribe of "Handy Books," Remembrancers," "Pocket Anatomists," and "Aids to Anatomy," we object. There is no more royal road to Anatomy than there is to Geometry. Books of this sort are useful only within the four walls of the dissecting-room. A student depending on a book of this kind cannot hope to acquire anything better than that parrot-knowledge, so commonly found in America. The section on Osteology would be improved by a few plates of muscular attachments in the Holden style. As a matter of fact, muscular attachments can be taught in one way only, viz.,

by making the student chalk them out upon the bones themselves. The worst part of the book is the chapter on the Articulations. This very important subject is treated of in seven pages. No mention is made of the movements of each joint, of their nervous and vascular supply, or of the muscles in relation with them. The action of muscles is described in truly laconic style. For example: the pterygoideus externus "draws jaw forwards," no mention, here or elsewhere, of its attachment to the interarticular fibro-cartilage of the temporo-maxillary articulation. We are surprised to find in so modern a book no allusion made to Medical and Surgical Surface Marking.

Lectures upon Diseases of the Rectum and the Surgery of the Lower Bowel. By W. H. VANBUREN, M.D., LL.D. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1, 3, and 5 Bond Street, 1881.

This is the second edition, revised and enlarged, of VanBuren's well-known lectures, delivered at Bellevue Hospital Medical College. The work constitutes a complete treatise on the subject, and embodies all the virtues of Curling, Allingham, Cripps, *et hoc genus omne*, together with the author's individual views and experience. The last chapter should undoubtedly have come first, treating as it does of Diagnosis and Exploration, and the Hygiene of the Lower Bowel; while its other contents—Malformations, Impaction, Foreign Bodies, Atony and Neuralgia—might be considered *in primis* as well as elsewhere. But although its location is not rational, no exception can be taken to its matter. The value of Sims's speculum and position in examination of the rectum is strongly insisted upon. In the section on Imperforate Rectum, the author has drawn largely upon Owen's Harveian Lectures. For Constipation in External Hæmorrhoids the author holds the India-rubber tube for self-injection to be the best substitute for drugs; but the recommendation should always be accompanied with the admonition to abandon the practice as soon as possible. As a palliative application in Internal Piles the subsulphate of iron is highly lauded; but in the radical treatment the author prefers ligature to everything else, and Paquelin's Thermocautery next.