

In speaking of the induction of premature labor he describes the Champetier de Ribes' dilator which has been used so successfully in both the old and new world during the last two years ; but makes no mention of Pelzer's method by the intra-uterine injection of glycerine. In speaking of abnormal pregnancy he adds much that is new, especially with reference to tubal pregnancy ; but we think it would have been well if he had rewritten the whole chapter, because, as it now appears, there is too much evidence of patchwork, and a lack of symmetry which is unusual in the writings of this distinguished author.

The chapter on symphysiotomy contains the most recent views with reference to this resurrected operation. He still retains his long description of that practically obsolete operation known as laparo-elytrotomy or celio-elytrotomy. It is hardly worthy of the space which it occupies. We think a reference of a few lines would be all sufficient.

Some additions have been made to the chapter on puerperal septicemia, and some portions have been changed. Dr. Playfair is so clear in the expression of his views, and has such an eye to practical utility, that his description of most subjects is both charming and useful. This chapter on septicemia forms about the clearest and most pleasing reading on this subject that can be found in any text-book. Without approving of all his views, we can heartily recommend it to advanced students and young practitioners. We think that Dr. Playfair is quite right in attaching importance to sanitary defects as causes of puerperal disease. It may be that the disease arising from such causes may be, in some respect, yet to be discovered, different from typical septicemia ; yet we must ever keep in mind the gravity of sanitary defects, and, from a practical point of view, there is no harm in associating them with septicemia. He thinks it well to retain the term auto-genetic in connection with the causes, and makes sapremia synonymous with self-infection. While this may not be exactly correct, still it simplifies matters for the student, while the remarks on hetero-genetic will induce him to consider well the best methods of preventing infection.

HERNIA : ITS PALLIATIVE AND RADICAL TREATMENT IN ADULTS, CHILDREN, AND INFANTS. By Thos. H. Manley, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia : Medical Press Company.

This monograph is well worthy of attentive perusal by those who wish to obtain a clear idea of what has been and is being done in this important branch of surgery, and do not wish to secure this by the laborious perusal of larger monographs and original articles.

A useful chapter is that devoted to Congenital Hernia and the Hygiene of Infancy, in which the use of the regulation binder is discouraged, and attention drawn to the possible existence of stenosis of the urethra or atresia of the prepuce as etiological factors.

Speaking of the treatment of hernia by tentative measures, Dr. Manley advises that in the mild cases we try what correction of any existing digestive disturbance and the keeping of the child off its feet will do towards helping nature to effect a cure before resorting to a truss. In case a bronchitis or whooping cough develop, the prompt application of a truss is insisted upon.