

work. While we would wish most earnestly that the book might be widely read by all general practitioners, we fear that only a few of the most advanced ones will do so. Many of the chapters are devoted to the microscopical diagnosis, and will be eagerly studied by the specialists who are anxious to make an accurate diagnosis at the earliest possible moment after seeing the case. The work is therefore invaluable to the specialist, who cannot afford to be without it. The question as to what operation should be performed in a given case and the dangers and difficulties of each are thoroughly discussed. There are complete separate chapters on cancer of the cervix and cancer of the body of the uterus. The chapters on differential diagnosis are simply perfect. There is a special chapter on pregnancy complicated by cancer of the cervix, for which the author recommends hysterectomy by the abdomen. There are two excellent chapters on the etiology of the disease, the author leaning to the view that heredity seems to have very little influence; he says the weight of evidence is against the parasitic theory. But the best chapter of all is the appendix by Knowsley Thornton, of London, which should be read by every general practitioner, and from which we give a few extracts: "How is an early diagnosis to be made? Clearly by neglecting no menstrual departure from the normal, however trivial it might at first sight appear, but at once to encourage the patient to accurately describe symptoms, and, above all, to insist in the most determined manner on a local examination. Here it will be apparent that I, as a consultant, appeal for help to the great body of those who are now listening to my remarks, to my professional brethren engaged in general practice. I, in common with those situated as I am, too seldom have an opportunity of diagnosing early, because the majority of the patients come to us too late, when the disease has advanced nearly, or quite, beyond the limits of surgical aid. Let me, then, appeal to all engaged in family practice who listen to me here, and to that larger body, who may read my words when reproduced in the medical journals, to sternly cast aside that too great modesty, or that tendency to treat as trivial, small symptoms, and to at once take alarm about, and carefully investigate every case in which there is brought to their notice an abnormality in menstruation or a vaginal discharge of any kind, however trifling. A very grave responsibility lies at the door of the medical profession for the small progress made in the early diagnosis of uterine cancer and its successful treatment. How constantly is the consultant told, 'I mentioned it to my doctor weeks or months ago, but he said, "Oh, it is nothing. I will send you a little medicine or a little injection," and never even suggested any internal examination, so I did not like to trouble him again till the pain became so bad or the discharge so troublesome, and then he examined me and said I must have special advice at once.' " Space prevents us from making other extracts, but the work is full of valuable advice, and should be in great demand. A. L. S.

Thompson's Practical Medicine.—A Text-Book of Practical Medicine. By William Gilman Thompson, M.D., Professor of Medicine in Cornell University Medical College, New York City, Physician to the Presbyterian and