

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF GYNÆCOLOGY FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By E. C. DUDLEY, A.M., M.D., Professor of Gynæcology in the North-Western University Medical School, Chicago. Fourth Edition, revised, with 419 illustrations in colours and monochrome. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York.

The first edition of Professor Dudley's book appeared in 1898, and now in 1904 we have the fourth. Four editions of a medical text-book in six years amply prove its popularity and value. The dedication continues to be to the venerable Emmet, of New York, whose pupil the author formerly was. As in the earlier editions, Dudley adopts a somewhat unusual classification of subjects. Instead of grouping together all the diverse morbid affections of one special organ, he has, as far as possible, arranged them in pathological and etiological sequence. To quote further from the author's preface, "for example, infections and inflammations are brought together so that vulvovaginitis, metritis, salpingitis, ovaritis, peritonitis and cellulitis may be studied in the combined forms which they ordinarily assume. In like manner tumours are treated in another part, traumatisms in another and displacements in another."

The text has undergone extensive revision, and all the borrowed illustrations of previous editions have been rejected, and three hundred new ones, all reproduced from drawings specially made for the book, have been introduced. A somewhat careful examination of the work amply justifies the author's claim in the matter of illustrations. In this particular no text-book we know for the student and ordinary practitioner can compare with Dr. Dudley's.

We presume he does not challenge comparison with Kelly's monumental work. In descending to particulars, we first notice the author's remarks on the treatment of acute puerperal metritis, the management of which is of so great interest to the obstetrician and gynæcologist. There is much difference of opinion. Is it wise to curette? There are enthusiastic advocates and there are unflinching opponents. The author's teaching is commendable. It is conservative, and inclines to its restriction to exceptional cases, where, if employed, it should be so thoroughly done by a sharp curette that every vestige should be removed. But the operation is by no means free from danger. There can be no doubt that it has sometimes killed the patient. We submit that the evidence in its favour is of very doubtful value.

On the question of the more radical operations for cancer of the uterus, these by which cellular tissue and lymphatic glands are exten-