

Reviews.

THE PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST FOR 1873. Twenty second year of its Publication: Philadelphia, Lindsay & Blackiston: Montreal, Dawson, Brothers.

The kindness of the publishers has placed in our hands, this invaluable little work. We call it invaluable, and advisably so, for to many within our knowledge, it has repaid its cost a hundred times over, not to say anything of its great convenience, as a daily remembrancer of work. Those who have made use of it need no urging from us to induce them to again obtain it, but we advise those who have not seen it to order it without delay. It is compact, carried without the slightest inconvenience, and is arranged for from 25 to 100 patients weekly.

OVARIAN TUMORS; THEIR PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, ESPÉCIAALLY OF OVARIOTOMY. By E. Randolph Peaslee, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Gynæcology in the Medical Department of Dartmouth College; attending Surgeon of the New York State Woman's Hospital; consulting Physician to the Stranger's Hospital: corresponding Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of Berlin, and of the Gynæcological Society of Boston; Honorary member of the Louisville Obstetrical Society; President of the New York Academy of Medicine, &c., &c., &c., with fifty-six illustrations on wood. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 551 Broadway, N. Y. Montreal, Dawson Bros.

This admirable treatise is divided into two parts, the first part treating of the normal anatomy, pathology and treatment of ovarian tumors, excepting ovariectomy, and beautifully illustrated with a number of original and well-executed drawings. The classification of ovarian tumors under two general heads, the solid and the cystic, presents the subject in a most simple and satisfactory form, and the subsequent grouping of these tumors is clear and scientific. In his differential diagnosis of abdominal tumors, Dr. Peaslee has handled his subject with masterly skill, and shown his thorough acquaintance with the literature of the day.

The second part of the work, which treats of ovariectomy, its history, statistics, indications, prognosis, operative methods and treatment is dealt with in the same original and able way that characterizes the first part of the work. The history of the operation is fairly and fully entered into, and the high honor of being the first ovariectomist is justly

accorded to Dr. McDowell, of Kentucky. With regard to the history of ovariectomy, while considerable diligence has been exercised in the collection of cases it is much to be regretted that more complete returns were not obtained. The names of several well-known operators have been omitted, among which is Dr. Burnhams, of Lowell, Mass. The returns of cases performed in Canada might very appropriately have found a place in this connection. The author's observations with regard to the selection of cases, and the proper time for their operation, commend themselves as reasonable and proper, and also accord with the opinion of such men as Dr. Keith, and Mr. Wills, whom, we think we may justly regard as the highest authorities on all matters connected with this operation. The prevalent opinion held a few years, against tapping as tending to diminish the chances of recoveries, is refuted by the latest statistics. Drs Keith and Wells both prefer to defer the operation as long as the patient's health will permit; resort to tapping in the meantime for the relief of urgent symptoms.

The importance of having the operation of ovariectomy performed in private houses or private hospitals, is forcibly dwelt upon, and commends itself to the judgment, as desirable in the treatment of all diseases. Sir J. Y. Simpson's late paper on "Hospitalism" conclusively shews that a smaller percentage of deaths occur in small Hospitals, than large ones. The mode of performing the operation and the after treatment recommended, are based upon sound physiological principles, and are such as have been followed by the greatest success. The preparatory treatment and arrangements for the operation are in accordance with latest established facts. The author devotes special attention to the subject of securing the pedicle, and arrives at the conclusion, that the ligature is more safe than the clamp. This conclusion although sustained by statistics does not accord with the practice of either Keith or Wells, as the former operator is now inclined to give preference to the actual cautery, and the latter adheres to his clamp. The treatment recommended after ovariectomy, especially in cases of unusual complications, is most thorough and well worthy of the attention of every operator. The last chapter of the work is devoted to the hygienic treatment of those who survive ovariectomy—attractive; while Dr. Peaslee's style is clear, and mode of treating his subject is eminently practical and complete. The work is gotten up in D. Appleton & Company's best style, and should be in the hands of every one who attempts to deal with ovarian tumors.