

A System of Oral Surgery, being a consideration of the Diseases and Surgery of the Mouth, Jaws and associated parts. By JAMES E. GARRETSON, M.D., D.D.S., Oral Surgeon to the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. Illustrated with numerous steel engravings. Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott & Co., 1873. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

This volume has been on our table for several months, and we have purposely delayed noticing it in our columns, for the reason that soon after its receipt we observed in a cotemporary, a somewhat severe criticism of it. We were desirous of having ample opportunity to examine the volume, and so ascertain whether the strictures we have referred to were correct. This we have now done, and while we cannot but say that the volume is not as original—especially in illustrations—as we would wish it to be, yet it is an exceedingly valuable contribution to a special and extremely interesting department of surgery, and is not, in our opinion, deserving of the remarks we have referred to. There is, on the part of many, strong objections to dividing the work of the profession into so many separate branches; still there is no question that the tendency of the age is to specialties, and, *oppos* it as we may, this tendency, in our opinion, will increase. Believing this, as we do, we feel that this book is calculated to give information on a class of surgical diseases, concerning which there is, among many, comparatively little known. Dr. Garretson thus explains the object he has in view: "The author has had continuously in his mind the recognition of the important fact that in no department of medical science has there existed a hiatus, such as that found to-day, between general Surgery and Dentistry—a lacking span truly in the bridge of practice. A patient with an oral disease of any complexity, trusting himself to the average dentist, meets with disaster, because of the absence of surgical knowledge and skill. Approaching from the side of medicine, he suffers alike from the want here of a special character of information, which has hitherto been looked upon as having alone relation to a speciality. To bridge this gap, by supplying the lacking span, has been the life-long labor of the author. * * * * if the dental practitioner learn from it that an acquaintance with the principles of medicine is necessary to the comprehension of oral surgery; and, on the other hand, if the general practitioner be led to perceive the necessity for a familiarity with that which hitherto has been deemed to belong exclusively to the province of

the dentist; that both may realize that oral surgery is a speciality, to which no man may bring learning and skill which shall not find abundant opportunity for their highest expression." Who will deny that this object is not a worthy one, and although, in some respects, there may be room for a hypercritical reviewer to pluck holes, we lock upon the volume, taking it altogether, as one well calculated to help on the desire which is expressed in the quotation we have made. The book is elegantly got up, and would make a handsome and useful addition to the library of any physician or dentist.

Reports of Societies.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

At a meeting of this Society held on the 13th June, Dr. Howard gave an interesting paper on a few cases of Uterine Fibroids, that had occurred in his practice.

The first case was that of a woman, aged 30 years, where the growth was accompanied by severe hemorrhage and prostration. Iron, ergot, and injections of iodine, (as recommended by Dr. Savage,) failed to arrest the bleeding. The removal of the tumor was effected by passing a tape over it, and snipping through the base with a scissors. No serious after results occurred, and the patient made a good recovery. The growth was found, upon examination, to be very dense.

Case No. 2.—Patient aged 49, and married twelve years. Had long suffered from profuse menstrual flow and metorrhagia. Of late the flow was more severe, and failed to be arrested by astringents.

On examination a pear-shaped tumor was easily detected, pressing on the internal os.

This tumor was removed by an *ecraseur*.

Considerable hemorrhage followed its removal, which was checked by cold water, solution of perchloride of iron, and finally arrested by tampon.

The woman made a good recovery, without any serious drawback.

No. 3.—This case was very similar to the last. The woman had borne six children, the youngest now six years of age. Ergot and aromatic sulphuric acid checked the flow of blood, and allowed time for the polypus to pass into the vagina, where it was easily removed by the *ecraseur*. The pedicle was the size of a finger. The fourth day after operation had rigors, which were followed by fetid discharge from uterus. Under tonics and disinfectant injections the patient soon made a good recovery.