

of the concluding lines to the preface of this third edition, in which the great advance in this especial department of Pathology is so modestly expressed, and to which Dr. Walshe has himself contributed to a greater extent probably than any other living observer. "While we are, on the one hand, enabled honestly to affirm that the medicinal means of controlling organic diseases of the heart have of late years improved; we can, on the other, lay fair claim to still greater advances in a hygienic point of view. And hence it comes that the hopeless motto of Corvisart's work on cardiac diseases, "*hæret lateri lethalis arundo*," infinitely well chosen in his time, grows yearly less and less appropriate."

Walshe "*on the Heart*" is a work so thoroughly well known, and its value so accurately appreciated, as a standard on the especial subject of which it treats, that anything approximating to a laboured review of it is emphatically a work of supererogation. The high encomiums which the preceding editions universally received from the medical press, are merited to a far higher degree by the present one. The student could not be directed to study a more valuable treatise, while the physician will find it a most truthful guide to the analysis of a series of symptoms which, while they entail upon the sufferer a life of wretchedness, too frequently baffle the greatest skill. No more valuable work could adorn the library of the latter. It can always be consulted by him with the greatest satisfaction, and we feel persuaded that, confessedly difficult as the diagnosis of cardiac affections is, a careful perusal of these pages will render many a point clear which was previously obscure, and lead to a treatment more rational and suitable to the alleviation of human suffering. Both in this work, and that "*on Diseases of the Lungs*," Dr. Walshe may be truly said to have carved out for himself his *monumentum ære perennius*. We cannot too strongly commend these two valuable works to the attention of our readers.

PERISCOPIC DEPARTMENT.

MIDWIFERY.

ON THE PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY OF PUERPERAL FEVER.

BY PROFESSOR BUHL.

PROFESSOR BUHL, of Munich, having examined the bodies of fifty women who died of puerperal fever, states that a constant and characteristic appearance is a poppy red, or dark brown or grayish-black mass lining the inner wall of the uterus, giving forth sometimes a gangrenous and sometimes a putrefactive smell. It is this matter which supplies the poisonous infection of puerperal fever; but as to the cause of the production of the fever differences of opinion prevail; some regarding it as the consequence of the immediate passage of poisonous matter into the womb, while others think that a preliminary poisoning of the blood by miasmata takes place, the corrupted mass being only a secondary result. Anatomically, we may distinguish two forms of puerperal fever—puerperal pyæmia and puerperal peritonitis—forms which may be clinically distinguished, as it is of importance in prognosis that they should be so.

Puerperal pyæmia does not usually prove fatal before the ninth day, and fre-