

gynæcology in America, but, owing to the prominent positions which he has occupied in the teaching faculties of New York and Brooklyn, he has kept pace with the great advances which gynæcology has been making during the last ten years. We have had the pleasure of seeing him at his home and at his work, and can testify to the great esteem in which he is held as a teacher, by his large class of students and young physicians. When one sees the number of patients he has to attend in a day, one wonders where he finds the time to accomplish such a task as the writing of this and his other books. It is a lesson to younger men to know that the veteran author does his writing between six and eight a.m., while younger men are still asleep. In two hours a day for three hundred days in the year a vast amount of work may be accomplished.

This book of Dr. Skeene's should be in the hands of every family physician who is called upon to treat medical diseases of women and girls, and his purchase will amply repay him for the expense incurred. It may be obtained from Messrs. Morang & Co., of Toronto, agents for the Appletons.

A MANUAL OF THE MODERN THEORY AND TECHNIQUE OF SURGICAL ASEPSIS. By Carl Beck, M.D., Visiting Surgeon to St. Mark's Hospital and to the German Poliklinik of New York City, etc. With 65 illustrations in the text, and 12 full-page plates. Price, \$1.25 nett. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut street, 1895.

The author says in his preface:—"This Manual of Surgical Asepsis, which is based upon the method employed in my teaching upon the treatment of wounds at the New York Post Graduate School and at St. Mark's Hospital, was written in compliance with the solicitations of those practitioners whom it has been my pleasure to instruct at these institutions.

"As it is only within a comparatively few years that bacteriology has revolutionized the practice of surgery, it is natural that even the most excellent surgical text-books lack full and detailed descriptions of the theory and technique of surgical asepsis.

"While the leading idea has been to write a *practical* book that would in a measure meet the deficiency of the larger works on the subject, yet *theory* could not entirely be omitted, inasmuch as most of the technique of modern wound-treatment is founded upon experiments conducted in the laboratory. But only those experiments have been accentuated whose comprehension is indispensably associated with that of technique, and whose results can be corroborated by clinical observation. Hence in this treatise there has been followed a plan somewhat different from that of my eminent predecessors, Schimmelbusch, Braatz, and Terrier.

"Certain details which may seem unimportant upon superficial consideration, but the neglect of which is incompatible with surgical success, have been given more prominence than is ordinarily accorded them in their connection with the subject of asepsis—for instance, the descriptions of the technique of suturing and of disinfection, the dressings employed for the different regions of the body, the maintenance of asepsis in private practice, etc.

"An important feature of this book, or at least so regarded by the writer, is that a stricter line of demarcation than usual is drawn between wounds aseptically performed by surgeons and those otherwise inflicted or those dependent upon inflammatory processes. In the latter category *antiseptis* asserts its prerogatives, but only as subordinate to asepsis. As an expression of the position thus assumed, were written the sections on Infected Wounds, on Open-wound Treatment, and on the Renewal of Dressings.

"Among the antiseptic drugs, iodoform is assigned the most prominence, and in regarding its extensive employment by the profession, its advantages and disadvantages are thoroughly discussed. The question of tuberculosis, that presents itself so frequently to practitioners, has also been exhaustively considered in its relation to asepsis. An entire section is devoted to anæsthesia, since, irrespective of its vital importance in most surgical procedures, its insufficient mastering is apt to impair seriously the aseptic condition of the patient."

The author points out the absolute necessity for eternal vigilance, as the price of safety, and truly says that if 99 points of asepsis have been observed and only 1 forgotten, the result will be the same as if the whole 100 had been neglected. Students, assistants and onlookers must never for a moment forget that the success of the operation may depend on any one of them. For this reason all those who take an interest in the progress of surgery would do well to study this work before attending an operation in any capacity.

A GUIDE TO THE ASEPTIC TREATMENT OF WOUNDS. By Dr. C. Schimmelbusch, Assistant in the Royal Surgical Clinic of the University of Berlin. Preface by Prof. E. Von Bergmann. Translated from the second revised German edition with express permission of the author, by Frank J. Thornbury, M.D., Lecturer on Bacteriology, University of Buffalo, N.Y., Super-vising Microscopist in the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture; late Senior Resident Physician Cincinnati Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio. With 43 illustrations. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The author and the translator have both enjoyed exceptional facilities for becoming thoroughly acquainted with modern aseptic