

Reviews

Text-Book of Operative Surgery. By DR. THEODORE KOCHER, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Surgical Clinic in the University of Berne. Third English edition. Authorized translation from the fifth German edition. By HAROLD J. STILES, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Surgeon to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, and Chalmers' Hospital, Edinburgh; and C. BALFOUR PAUL, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Assistant Surgeon, Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. With 415 illustrations. In two volumes. Price, \$16.00. Publishers: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 70 Bond St., Toronto.

The present edition of this exhaustive work may well be described as the "last word" on the subject of operative surgery. Few, if any, European surgeons have had such an extensive experience alike in the teaching and practice of surgery as Professor Kocher, and he has condensed his vast knowledge in the present work, which embraces 450 pages more than the former edition. The whole work has been thoroughly revised and re-arranged. Many of the sections have been re-written, while the additions which have been made, both to the text and illustrations, are such as to make the work now cover the whole field of operative surgery.

The two volumes are divided into five parts, viz.: Section 1, which deals with the following subjects: Preparation for operation, beginning of the operation, operative technique, after treatment, detailed consideration of anesthesia, and details in regard to wound treatment; Section 2, surgery of the vascular system; Section 3, surgery of the nervous system; Section 4, surgery of the extremities; Section 5, surgery of the head and trunk. As already stated, the work is truly exhaustive in its scope, masterly in its style, and lucid, both by virtue of the directness of the text and the wealth of illustration. As all the surgical world knows, Professor Kocher has devised a tremendous number of operations, or modifications of other methods, and, while he gives ample credit for the work of those who have gone before (generally giving their operations in detail), one cannot help being impressed with the many improvements he has introduced into operative technique, especially when the details of his methods are placed alongside those of former operators. To take an example at random: His description of his own method of excising the elbow joint. How clear in its description! And to those who have performed the operation—more especially for tubercular disease of the joint—how much more simple