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Book Reviews.

A System of Gynæcology. By many writers. Edited by Thomas Clifford Allbutt, M.A., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.S.A., Regius Professor of Physics in the University of Cambridge; Fellow of Gonville and Caius College; and W. L. Playfair, M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Obstetric Medicine in King's College, and Obstetric Physician to King's College Hospital. London: McMillan & Company, Ltd. New York: The McMillan Co., 1896.

This is a volume of nearly one thousand pages, being a part of the New System of Medicine. We must begin by congratulating Dr. Playfair, who had the choosing of the contributors, upon the excellence of his choice. Anyone familiar with the names of leading gynæcological writers of the day will at once recognize such names as Berry Hart, Freeland Barbour, Milne Murray, Halliday Croome, Armand Routh, George Hermann, Bland Sutton, Haultain, Cullingworth, Priestly, Knowsley-Thornton, Alban Doran, and Greig Smith; indeed, many of these gentlemen, including Playfair, are authors of text-books which are recognized as standard ones throughout the world. The whole subject of gynæcology is one of recent development. Even the work of its pioneers is within the recollection of the oldest among us, while works written twenty years ago are absolutely useless as guides to the practice of to-day, not containing even a reference to the burning gynæcological questions of the hour. On the other hand, many opinions and methods of treatment then largely taught and practised have justly passed into oblivion. Much of this great progress is undoubtedly on the surgical aspect of the subject. The increasing frequency of abdominal sections has directed attention to the diseased states thus revealed, and to methods of treating them, previously quite unknown. Owing to the greater conservatism of the gynæcologists of Great Britain, they have been considered by their American and Continental brethren as being rather backward in recent advances. This volume has been the means of quite changing the reviewer's opinions at least on this point, for it contains full and frequent references to all the most recent work in this department, and shows that they not only preach but themselves practise the same line of treatment as is advocated by the majority of the gynæcologists of this continent. They are opposed, but not more so than we are, to the wholesale removal of organs without first having exhausted all hygienic and medicinal treatment, and in this they cannot be too highly commended. A good many years have passed since any complete work on Gynæcology has appeared in England, so that we had no means of knowing what progress that art and science had made there; but from a careful perusal of the volume before us, we can safely say that British gynæcology will compare favorably with