

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ART. XIV.—*Lectures on the Diseases of Women.* By CHARLES WEST, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Examiner in Midwifery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Physician Accoucher to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children. Part 1. Diseases of the Uterus. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. Montreal: B. Dawson. Quebec: Middleton & Dawson. 1857.

Dr. West is one of the few physicians who feel that in return for the opportunities they have had of attending an hospital, they lie under an obligation to the profession at large to communicate the results of the experience or information acquired for its improvement; in short that he has enjoyed a privilege, and now desires to discharge the obligation. Whether this opinion be sound or not, is open we believe to doubt, since in the first place it may be retorted that an hospital attendant owes the profession positively nothing for his appointment, inasmuch as he does not receive it from this body; secondly, that he is the servant of the public by whom virtually he is placed in his office of responsibility; and lastly, that the public look for no other return than a faithful and skilful discharge of the duties upon which he enters,—which it is not too much to say may be rendered at least as efficiently when the real necessities of the patients are properly ministered to, as when the unfortunate persons are merely used as vessels for novel experiments and spectacles of strange observations. We are far from implying that physicians in attendance at an hospital should disregard the interests of the profession; when these can be conjoined with the grand intention just contended for,—undoubtedly the accomplishment is most praiseworthy and beneficial; but we still disclaim against its being considered a requirement that can be justly expected, and do uncompromisingly deny that it is an imposed debt that must be discharged.

The present part which within the next three years will, with the endeavor of the author, be followed by a second,—is upon the disorders of menstruation, and of the structural affections of the uterus, including misplacements and outgrowths, and its entire matter is distributed through twenty lectures. The reputation that Dr. West acquired from his former productions, particularly that upon diseases of infancy and childhood, will secure for this important addition to obstetrical literature, general attention, and a favorable reception; and we shall be disappointed if upon examination it does not prove well worthy of its antecedents. Personally we regard it as a work especially meriting character from the