

The mere looker-on at an ovarian operation departs about as wise as when he came. Neither plates, books, nor written rules, will supply the want of judgment and experience on the part of the surgeon having to do with an operation, whereby the life of the patient is put in imminent peril by the very first incision."

We wish we could impress these thoughts with molten lead on the hearts of all who, with the most reckless indifference as to consequences, do not hesitate, without the slightest fitness, to engage in an operation, the success of which depends upon so many contingencies, and the results of which are so momentous; an operation which at times, and unexpectedly, taxes the highest skill and the most thorough preparation the world can bestow.

*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Women.*

By T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D., 5th edition, enlarged and thoroughly revised. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson, 1880.

A book which has passed through four editions will probably be held to be beyond the pale of the reviewer's influence; and the demand for a fifth may justly be regarded not only as an expression of public favour and appreciation, but also as an intimation that he who ventures to draw the bow of criticism, will find that he has sped but a pointless shaft. Fortunately our present task and purpose is one of simple commendation and enumeration of improvements. The first improvement is observed in chapter II. upon the Etiology of Uterine Disease wherein the non-recognition or neglect of injuries, such as lacerated cervix or perineum, due to parturition is very properly characterized and condemned in a few plain forcible words, not a whit too strong in view of the magnitude and prevalence of the evil. Dr. Thomas holds, and there can be no shadow of doubt about the soundness of his position, that every parturient woman should be examined by her attendant at the expiry of the ordinary term of involution, and any lesion then discovered immediately repaired. The Etiologic influence of Insufficient Food, and of Habitual Constipation, here, also, for the first time receive due recognition. The chapter on General Pathology and Treatment is also, partly

new. This is followed by an entirely new one on some of the most important therapeutic resources of gynecology, in which are briefly noticed, Diet and Exercise, Pessaries, Precautions in Operations, Vaginal Injection, the Tampon and Means for Controlling Temperature. The Congenital and Infantile Malformations of the Female Sexual Organs are accorded a place in this edition and constitute a very desirable addition.

The chapter on the Female Perineum is rewritten and embodies, to our mind, the best description of its anatomy and uses now extant. The account of the surgical means for restoration of the perineal body has likewise been rewritten, and the method which he inculcates displays a full recognition of the maxim of Mathias Mayor "simplex sigillum veri." To the chapter on Atresia Vaginae in the last edition we here find prefixed an account of Atresia Uteri—a welcome addition. To the article on Fistulae a description of Uretero-uterine and Uretero-Vaginal Fistulae has been appended.

In Chronic Cervical Endometritis extended experience confirms the author in his previously expressed approval of the ablation of the *arbor vite* by the cutting steel curette in obstinate cases. In the treatment of chronic corporeal endometritis he has almost wholly abandoned the use of intrauterine applications or injections above the *os internum*, substituting therefor the employment of the dull wire curette. In certain cases of chronic metritis Weir Mitchell's treatment of neurasthenia by absolute rest, massage and electricity is highly lauded, as well as the system of exercise for development of the abdominal and thoracic muscles described and advised by Geo. H. Taylor. A short reference to Martin's amputation of one lip of cervix for the promotion of involution in areolar hyperplasia has been inserted, and the account of Sim's amputation and the use of the galvano cautery omitted. The importance of a careful differentiation between granular degeneration and laceration of the cervix, as pointed out by Emmett, is here insisted upon. The account of Uterine Fungosities, as well as of laceration of the cervix is entirely new; and both chapters, although short, form a very valuable addition.