

contributions to gynecology and obstetrics of this century. We are exceedingly glad that these papers are now published in concise form, and at a low price, and we can assure our readers that they ought not only to be read, but carefully studied, by all physicians engaged in general practice, including those especially who do obstetrical and gynecological work.

The papers published in this volume treat of subjects connected with the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the female pelvis, and practical discussions on various subjects in obstetrics and gynecology. Among the contents we find his presidential address delivered before the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, in which he takes as his text the work of Dr. Matthews Duncan. H. refers to the fact that Duncan imported physical conceptions into midwifery. This is well known in all parts of the world, and we are glad to say, in the same connection, that, in the class of scientific observers which he has left behind him, no figure stands out more prominently than that of Dr. Berry Hart. We hope this book will be widely read in Canada.

A TREATISE ON THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY. By W. S. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Obstetric Medicine in King's College, etc. Sixth American from the eighth English edition, with notes and additions. By Robert P. Harris, A.M., M.D., Honorary Fellow of the American Gynecological Society and the Obstetrical Society; corresponding member of the Obstetrical Society of Leipzig, etc. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

Playfair's Midwifery is probably the most popular text-book on this subject that has appeared since Tyler Smith's time. Since its first publication in 1876 eight editions have passed through the press in Great Britain, and six in the United States. The present edition contains much that is new, although not quite so much as we should have liked to see.

In speaking of the anatomy of the pelvis, the author refers to Dr. Berry Hart's description of the structures forming the floor of the pelvis and the perineum. We desire to commend his adoption of Dr. Hart's views as to the anatomy, but regret that he has not gone a step further in the way of changing his views with reference to the mechanism of the head delivery. He says: "As the forehead descends, the sub-occipito-bregmatic, the sub-occipito-frontal, and the sub-occipito-mental diameters successively present; the occiput turns more and more upward in front of the pubes, and at last the face sweeps over the perineum and is born." We believe this is bad teaching, particularly when we consider its results in forceps delivery. In speaking of the use of the forceps he says: "As the head is about to emerge it is necessary to raise the handles towards the mother's abdomen." The result of this in actual practice is (frequently at least) to change a sub-occipito-bregmatic diameter to a sub-occipito-mental, in which case the chin cuts through the perineum like a knife. This has been noticed by many, but not generally understood. Goodell tells young practitioners to remove the blades as soon as the head reaches the outlet. As a matter of fact, one will do no harm in retaining the blades on the head if he manages his forceps properly, or if he uses a well-constructed axis-traction forceps according to the methods described by Milne Murray and others of the Edinburgh school.