

*Modern Surgery: General and Operative.* By JOHN CHALMERS DACOSTA, M.D., Professor of the Principles of Surgery and of Clinical Surgery in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Handsome octavo volume of 1099 pages, with over 700 illustrations, some in colors. Fourth edition, greatly enlarged and entirely reset. Philadelphia, New York and London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1903. Canadian agents: J. A. Carveth & Co., Limited, Toronto.

In this fourth edition of Professor DaCosta's work one observes a conscientious effort to bring the work up to the standard of the most recent improvements, discoveries and developments in surgery. The whole book shows evidences of a thorough overhauling of previous editions with a view to the elimination of obsolete views and practices, and to the introduction of everything that is new and practical in recent surgery. The chapter on X-rays is treated almost entirely from the point of view of diagnosis in relation to fractures and location of foreign bodies, and one is gratified to observe that no extravagant claims are made for the curative effect of the X-rays in malignant disease. One of the greatest evils resulting from an ill-founded hope in the cure of disease by methods other than the use of the "knife" is, that patients are disposed to seek relief by means of the less repulsive method, and thus squander valuable time, so that when they, in despair, ultimately resort to the surgeon, their condition is beyond hope. It is to be feared also that sometimes specialists in this line are apt to give the patient a prognosis altogether too reassuring.

One is gratified also to see Kocher's method of reduction of dislocation of the shoulder given fully and illustrated by figures which represent the method adequately. It has taken a long time for this method of treatment of a very common injury to obtain recognition among writers on surgery, and it certainly is beyond the shadow of doubt a perfectly adequate form of treatment for nearly all forms of this condition. In illustrations of the deformities in dislocation of the hip, Professor DaCosta has wisely, we think, contented himself with the old, but very graphic, characteristic illustrations given by Sir Astley Cooper. Nothing could better illustrate the deformities, and it is a graceful way to perpetuate the memory of this great surgeon.

If one might venture a criticism of the work, it would seem to the writer that there is a lack of just proportion in devoting some thirty pages to ligation of individual arteries, and in disposing of the treatment of rupture of the bladder in three lines—comprehensive, it is true, but adequate. One could also wish to see obliterated forever from works on surgery such illustrations as that in Fig. 74, in which the use of harelip pins is demonstrated. These instruments of torture may have had their use in pre-antiseptic days, but they certainly have been responsible for untold numbers of hideous, centipede-like scars which one sees in many old cases