

I have seen many of them used, but I never saw them cure a case—which is supposed to correct the curvature by taking the place of the weakened muscles. The only effect it has is to atrophy the muscles more and more. I had such a case several years ago—a delicate young girl was brought to me with a complicated iron corset in her hand, and which she refused to wear, preferring deformity or death to the torture which it caused. I told her mother to throw away the machine, take her daughter away from school and go to the country for a few months; to stimulate the defaulting muscles with salt and water frictions, electricity, etc., and give her plenty of fresh air and good food. The result was that she is now as straight as an arrow and a splendid specimen of young womanhood. This, I admit, is not the usual treatment, but I believe it is the rational one, and I hold that gymnastics are better than splints for defaulting muscular action."

Dr. Sayre describes the method he follows in toning up the weak muscles, and as his article is profusely illustrated with photolithographs, it is one of the clearest and most practical essays we have seen for a long while, although it is rather the broad principle which we desire to inculcate—that you cannot strengthen a weak muscle by doing its work for it.

#### NOTICES OF BOOKS.

TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF WOMEN, for the use of Students and Practitioners. By Alexander J. C. Skene, M.D. With 251 Engravings and 9 Chromo-Lithographs. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1888.

This work presents a splendid combination of literary ability, special professional knowledge and experience, clearness of style, on the part of the author, and of large clear type, fine glazed paper and elegant illuminations on the part of the publishers.

"It was written," says the preface, "for the purpose of bringing together the fully matured and essential facts in the science and art of

gynecology, so arranged as to meet the requirements of the student of medicine, and be convenient to the practitioner for reference. In the plan adopted, the diseases peculiar to women are, as far as possible, divided into three classes. The first class comprises those which occur between birth and puberty; the second, those between puberty and the menopause; and the third, those which come after the menopause,

Each subject is briefly described, and histories of cases, typical and complicated, are given as illustrative of the disease or injury under consideration, together with the author's method of treatment. The number of illustrative cases given depends upon the practical importance of the subject and the ability to make it more plain by the use of illustrations."

The author has ventured to give his own views and methods pertaining to practical matters, believing that while they may differ to some extent from the general literature of the day, they will be found reliable in practice and may be of interest to the specialist.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS. A Manual of Clinical Methods. By J. Graham Brown, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Second Edition. Illustrated. New York: E. B. Treat, 771 Broadway, 1888. Price \$2.75.

At the present time it is generally the physicians endeavour to treat disease on rational principles, and to do so with any hope of success it is absolutely necessary for him to be well versed in the various forms of physical and medical diagnosis. To students this book will prove invaluable, for the subject is so treated as to make the perusal of its contents more of a pleasure than otherwise, and such cannot truly be said of many of the ponderous volumes on this so called "dry" subject. The author has endeavored to describe the signs and symptoms of disease and to show what is their value from a diagnostic point of view. If his attempts in this direction should prove successful, it may enable the student to save much valuable time by assisting him in analysing the evidences of disease and then extracting from the whole those signs which are of most value as indicating its nature. We can most heartily recommend it to our readers. It is well bound in cloth and its letter-press is admirable.