

ence in the opposite scale. It is with this educational aspect of the dispute between profession and schools that the public is chiefly concerned. It is not well, in the interests of the public, that professions like medicine and law, whose members necessarily have themselves to determine the nature and extent of the services they shall render to the sick or to the litigious, should be permitted to become greatly over-crowded. In this respect, the highest point compatible with the safety and well-being of the community has, in the medical profession, long since been reached and passed. The province is over-stocked with doctors, and would fain see the future annual output improved in quality, and very largely lessened in quantity. We look to the council at its present session to perfect measures that shall secure this end. If it does not do so, the profession itself, or the Defence Association, which has already inaugurated and secured many useful reforms, must take the initiative, and in doing so may rest assured that the movement will command the approval of the public and the support of the Legislature.—*Toronto Mail*, 12th June, 1895.

BOOK NOTICES.

MEDICAL GYNÆCOLOGY. A treatise on the Diseases of Women, from the standpoint of the physician. By Alex. J. C. Skeene, M.D., Professor of Gynæcology in the Long Island College Hospital, New York, formerly Professor of Gynæcology in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School; Gynæcologist to the Long Island College Hospital; Ex-President of the American Gynæcological Society, etc.; with illustrations. New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1885. Price \$5.00.

The author says that the growth of gynæcology in recent times has been phenomenal, especially in the direction of surgery, and that in this respect its progress should have been remarkable is not surprising in view of the great advance made in general surgical knowledge during that period. It appears in medical literature that surgery has been more assiduously cultivated than medicine. This may have induced some to push the surgical treatment of diseases of women to extremes, and, in fact, internal medicine. On the other hand, physicians who have been over-confident in their art may have failed occasionally to do surgery full justice. This is evidently responsible for the frequent and often illogical discussions which have been going on in the past few years regarding the so-called radical and conservative practice in gynæcology. The science and art of medicine and surgery in their highest development should be above all

party questions, and those who place a just estimate on both branches of the healing art, and employ them without predilection and prejudice, are the most successful and reliable. Unreasonable devotion to either medicine or surgery is wrong. The consciousness on the part of the author of this status of Gynæcology is responsible for the inception and genesis of this work. How far he may be right in thinking that there is room for a new work on the medical branch of gynæcology, and to what extent the requirements have been met in this volume, the members of the medical profession alone can decide.

The volume is arranged in three parts: Part I deals with the primary differentiation of sex, development and growth during early life, and the condition favorable to the evolution of normal organization, and the attainment of a health in purity. This involves the discussion of heredity and environment, including care in childhood, mental and physical education and culture, together with the necessary additions during the transition from girlhood to womanhood.

Part II treats of the characters of sex, the adaptation of structure to function, the predisposition to particular diseases and the causes of certain afflictions peculiar to women. Then follow all the functional and organic diseases common to the period of active functional life of woman, which commonly come under the observation and care of the physician.

Part III discusses the menopause of the transition from active functional life towards advanced years; and then the diseases of the latter period. The great object in the first part of this work is to consider as fully as possible the ways and means of developing vigorous organizations and maintaining healthy functional life. This necessitates attention to hygiene at all periods, and all that the term implies.

We have taken the above notice of the work from the author's preface; but after having read over several chapters very carefully, we feel justified in saying that the author has more than accomplished the object which he had in view. We have heard already more than one practitioner in this city speak of this work as the most valuable addition to our medical textbooks that has yet appeared, and we feel confident that when this book becomes more generally known by, and placed in possession of, the general practitioners throughout the country, there will not only be many less cases of diseases of women, but also many of those cases which do exist will be cured by medical treatment, instead of being allowed to drift on to the more advanced stage when nothing short of surgery will afford relief.

Little need be said of Dr. Skeene's vast experience; he is not only one of the fathers of