

Montreal for discussion. We earnestly hope that in this matter there will be union, and especially that the seniors of the profession will not hold out on the old tariff and claim their right to charge as they please. If this doctrine, which we have heard more than once broached, is admitted, it cannot be confined to the question of fees, and the *cordón* that keeps the profession united will be loose indeed. This is a matter of really far more moment than would appear upon the surface, and to the younger members of the profession it is of vital importance.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We sent in our last number accounts to all our city subscribers, and in the present issue, we enclose bills to our country subscribers. We will take it kind if both will promptly attend to the small memorandum.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Trenholme of Montreal, professor of midwifery and diseases of women and children, in Bishops College, has been elected a Fellow of the Obstetrical Society of London.

Mr. Holmes Coote, the eminent London surgeon, has been obliged to desist from all professional duties, owing to continued ill health.

Mr. G. B. Shaw has been selected by his fellow students to deliver the valedictory address upon behalf of the graduating class, at the convocation of the Medical Faculty of Bishops College, on April next.

Reviews.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON URINARY AND RENAL DISEASES, INCLUDING URINARY DEPOSITS.—Illustrated by numerous cases and engravings, by William Roberts, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary; Lecturer on Medicine in the Manchester School of Medicine. Second American from the second revised and considerably enlarged London edition. Philadelphia, Henry C. Lea, 1872. Montreal, Dawson, Brothers.

It has been said, that excessive book-making is one of the evils of the present age. The assertion is quite true of too many of the books that are presented to us. We have no such opinion of the work before us by the accomplished Lecturer on Medicine in the Manchester School. It belongs to a type of authorship, which we wish, for the sake of the busy

practitioner, were much more common than it is. This is the American reprint from the second English edition of Dr. Roberts's work, the first having been brought out in 1865, and exhausted three years ago.

Our author divides his work into three parts. In the first part, the Physical and Chemical Properties (including urinary deposits) of the urine in health and disease, are treated of. In his treatment of this division of the subject, Dr. Roberts displays good judgment, for while all those chemical researchers into the composition of the urine, and the rate of excretion of its several ingredients, which have been proved to be of clinical value, are amply elucidated, the reader is referred to such treatises as those of Parkes, Vogel and Neubauer, for the more purely chemical and physiological investigations in this line which have not as yet been shown to be of practical value. The various methods of examining the urine for clinical purposes are given, and the significance of its many and diverse changes are amply explained and illustrated. Dr. Roberts describes a very convenient form of arrangement for keeping the necessary apparatus for testing the urine. It consists of a circular stand somewhat after the manner of a cruet-stand, on which are arranged in two tiers the various reagents, glasses, test-tubes, burette, flask, urinometer stirring rods, pipettes, &c. This part of the work is amply illustrated with engravings of the microscopical appearances of the various deposits to be found in the urine. These are compared with, and distinguished from the numerous extraneous matters which accidentally find their way into it.

In the second part of the work, those diseases of which the chief characteristic is an alteration of the composition of the urine, are treated of under this head. Diabetes Insipidus, Diabetes Mellitus, Gravel and Calculus, and Chylous urine each receive their share of attention. Dr. Roberts has come to no definite conclusion, and framed no theory and as to the pathology of Diabetes Mellitus. The following are the words with which he concludes this part of his subject: "Although we appear to be approaching an exact knowledge of the pathogenic elements of glycosuria, it is yet manifestly impossible, in the present state of science, to frame a comprehensive and clear theory of diabetes. It would seem highly probable that diabetes consists proximately in some disturbance of the destiny and functions of the amyloid substance (animal dextrine) of the liver. But this disturbance may be due originally to disease far away from the liver itself, in some part of