

issue of these volumes is to be regretted, as they are seldom published until some months have elapsed since the Society has last met. In the volume before us we have the table of contents, list of fellows, and report of meetings placed at the beginning, and at the end of the volume the usual Gynecological Index is inserted, forming a very important guide to the literature of these subjects, and is evidence that a great deal of patient labor is given to make it a complete reference of all that is written during the past year relating to diseases of women. Twenty-one papers were read and discussed. All the papers are of interest, and some of considerable practical value.

Dr. Garrigue's paper on Exploratory Puncture of the Abdomen will interest ovariologists, his conclusions being that tapping gives valuable information in forming a diagnosis of cystic tumors; that all tumors should be tapped before operation, and that carefully performed this is a safe procedure. In the discussion which followed, the majority of the speakers expressed their disapproval of so doing as being unnecessary, and not without dangerous consequences.

A paper on Pelvic Effusion resulting in abscess is important, considering the relation of uterine disease to pelvic inflammations. The necessity of an early recognition of these inflammations is pointed out, and also the fact that they are often overlooked and improperly treated; this is seen by the adhesions so often met with.

Forcible Elongation of Pelvic Adhesions was the subject of a paper by Dr. Van de Warker, and his method of doing this explained. Dr. Goodell's paper on Bursting Cysts of the Abdomen gave cases of these rare tumors which the author considers to arise from the parovarium, or broad ligament.

Axis Traction with the Obstetric Forceps, by Albert Smith, of Philadelphia, elicited a valuable discussion. The writer objects to the Tarnier Forceps as being too complicated, disinfected with difficulty, the compressing screw being dangerous, and, lastly, he believes that *it cannot do what it professes to do, make axis traction at all*. He believes that axis traction can be better effected by the ordinary forceps, by pressure on the lock backwards and downwards with one hand while the other lifts the handle upwards. He also favors the "Davis" forceps as being the best, Drs. Lusk, Fordyce Barker, Thomas, Wilson, Taylor and others taking part in the dis-

ussion. Dr. Lusk said the application of Tarnier Forceps was limited to a certain class of cases where immediate delivery was required in a moderately contracted pelvis with the head at the brim, removing the instrument before the head passes the vulva. Dr. Barker expressed the same views, the operator allowing nature to accomplish the mechanism, while he follows nature by the guide to the tractors.

Can laceration of the cervix be prevented? Dr. Polk ably presented this question of so much interest owing to the prominence given to the lesion of late years by the writings of Dr. Emmet. His conclusions are that most of the lacerations of the cervix are avoidable. Necessarily only a few of the papers are mentioned, sufficient, however, to show the value of this Society's work.

*Suppression of Urine: Clinical Descriptions and Analysis of Symptoms.* By E. P. FOWLER, M.D. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1881.

The substance of this small volume was presented in a paper to the New York Medico-Chirurgical Society, December 14th, 1880. The author gives an analysis of the symptoms present in 93 cases, with illustrations, tables and diagrams. The special significance of each symptom is considered, as well as the influence of sex and age. The duration of anuria is also noticed. The value of this work is in the statistics, which are included.

*An Index of Surgery: Being a Concise Classification of the Main Facts and Theories of Surgery, for the Use of Senior Students and others.* By C. B. KEETLEY, F.R.C.S., London, Eng. New York: Wm. Wood & Co., 1882.

The author states in his preface that it is intended for the senior student prior to his final examination, after having carefully studied a complete text-book. From this standpoint this index will be found very useful, otherwise we fear but little useful knowledge can be gained by a study of it. Its value consists in presenting the chief points of Surgery in a brief and accurate manner and in supplying notes to the student whose pen is unable to follow a lecturer. To obtain a correct knowledge of the subject it is essential that a complete text-book should be studied by the student, and then he will find this little work of value as a review of the work already accomplished. The practitioner, in like manner, may find it useful to refer to.