
LEHRBUCH DER GEBURTSHILFE ZUR WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN UND PRAKTISCHEN AUSBILDUNG FÜR AERZTE UND STUDIERENDE. A Text Book on Obstetrics. By F. AHLFELD, M.D. Second revised edition, with 338 illustrations and 16 charts. Leipzig: Fr. Wilh. Grunow, 1899.

In discussing the first edition of Ahlfeld's work we stated that there were two kinds of text books—one a compilation of the literature and clippings from other works, and another type, usually less pretentious and more modest in appearance, but which shows originality in every line and reflects the author's personal experience and views.

Ahlfeld's work is a splendid representative of this second type. It is Ahlfeld's own handiwork, and not a machine-made article; a figure clad in homespun, and not a puppet dressed in a garment of many colors.

The first edition deserved the predicate "good," and this much-enlarged second edition should receive the mark "excellent." Many of the shortcomings of the first edition have been obviated, the author having paid due attention to many honest criticisms, which especially found fault with the method in which the various chapters were arranged.

The chapter on the physiology of pregnancy and labor is well written. In the former, however, we desire to criticise Figure 58, which is said to illustrate the normal position of the full-term uterus in a primipara. In our opinion the position is decidedly abnormal and the illustration would well fit a description of a pendulous belly.

Ahlfeld advises the preliminary vaginal douche even in normal cases; this, however, does not surprise us, for Ahlfeld is a strong believer in autoinfection.

The chapter on the physiology of the puerperium contains little that is knew. We desire, however, to take exception to the advice that the patient may leave her bed without any danger three or four days post partum. We grant that this may be possible in exceptional cases, but it would certainly be inadvisable in most women.

In the treatment of eclampsia Ahlfeld takes a conservative position and opposes the radical treatment of Dührssen and others who advise the immediate emptying of the uterus. Hot baths and wet pack are advised, to which, in especially grave cases, chloroform anesthesia or morphine injections may be added.

We fully agree with Ahlfeld in the treatment of myomata complicating pregnancy—that is, not to operate in these cases except the tumors should render delivery impossible.

The chapter discussing the complications of labor as a result of a preceding vesico- or vaginal-fixation of the uterus is new and interesting. This operation is decidedly unjustifiable during the child-bearing period, and, if we are not mistaken, the signs are many that it will soon be discarded.

The chapter on puerperal sepsis is concise, conservative, and up to date. As might be expected, the etiology of autoinfection finds a prominent place. The book closes with a brief recapitulation of the diseases of the new-born infant.

We wish to draw especial attention to the chapter on gonorrheal infection, which contains many valuable points.

We heartily recommend this work to both the student and physician as a safe and reliable guide. J. R.

URINARY ANALYSIS AND DIAGNOSIS. By LOUIS HEITZMANN, M.D., New York. With 108 original illustrations. New York: William Wood & Company, 1899.

It would seem at first glance as if any writer guilty of a new work on the urine owed a distinct apology to the medical profession. If Dr. Heitzmann owes any such apology it is for having delayed so long in giving us a book so greatly needed. Every physician realizes the importance of urine examination.

Nearly every one regards himself as more or less of an expert at it. As a rule his microscope has been bought with that end in view, and with bacteria and blood work as a secondary possibility; and yet there can be no doubt that many a man who examines hundreds of specimens every year will take a beautiful sediment, every feature of which should tell something as it passes under the objective, and yet know little more about the urinary tract of his patient when he has finished the examination than he did when he began it.

The reason for this is obvious. The standard works on the urine give much space to minute chemical analysis—work which can only properly be done in a fully equipped laboratory —and the microscopical portion of the subject is relegated to a very subsidiary position. This will be more clearly evident when it is mentioned that in the book on this subject which is probably the most popular at present in this country, there is *not one original plate* of urinary sediments. And this book is not an exception. It is in many ways an excellent work and quite typical of the books which we depend upon to instruct us in this line.

To see the evil effect of this teaching it is only necessary to send a specimen of urine, in a doubtful case, to the laboratories where such examinations are made for the profession. An elaborate chemical analysis with a most meagre microscopical report will be returned. It happened recently to the writer of this review to see in consultation a patient with pyonephrosis. The urine from the case had been sent to the pathologist of a large institution, and the report was at hand to help in the diagnosis. It consisted of a chemical analysis, figured in most scientific-looking decimals, and with a microscopical appendix which read as follows: "Pus cells numerous; red blood cells in fair number; epithelial cells of the squamous and spindle-shaped varieties; crystals of ammonio-magnesian phosphate; amorphous phosphates; no casts." Considering the fact that the pus was entirely evident to the naked eye in this specimen, there is absolutely nothing in the report which can be said to add a jot to the clinical picture or help the practitioner in the slightest degree. In fact, if anything, it is misleading, as rather suggesting the bladder as the source of the pus. That this is a typical urinary report I think any one who has had experience in this direction will agree. And yet in the case in question an absolutely positive diagnosis of abscess of the kidney could easily be made with the microscope in five minutes. Mixed with the pus corpuscles there were to be found myriads of cuboidal and columnar epithelia from the convoluted and straight collecting tubules of the kidney. These, in the laboratory report, had undoubtedly been classed as pus corpuscles. In justice to the laboratory where the examination in question was made, it should be remembered that failure to recognize the source of the various epithelia found in urine is quite in accordance with the teaching of the text books, and shows what great need there is for a work such as Dr. Heitzmann

has given us. In the urine above mentioned, moreover, there could be seen in every field shreds of connective tissue—certainly a most important feature as showing destructive change, and yet these shreds are not mentioned in the report. The reason for this omission is as simple as it is amazing: the text books do not any of them mention the possibility of finding this important anatomical element in urine!

In reviewing a book as full of meat as Dr. Heitzmann's it is difficult to know where to begin and where to stop. Each chapter suggests a new text. Probably the most important portion of the book is that devoted to epithelia. It will be remembered, as stated above, that at present the weight of authority is against the possibility of determining the sources of the various epithelia found in the urine. Dr. Heitzmann takes the opposite view, and states that while in every urine many epithelia will be found whose source cannot possibly be told, still, *on the average*, it is entirely possible to tell. Those who are inclined to hastily criticise this position as untenable should not forget that this book is the outcome of many years of painstaking work in a limited field by an extremely competent and well-trained observer.

While it is not possible in a brief review to state Dr. Heitzmann's position in detail, it may be said that his method of differentiating epithelia from the various parts of the urinary tract is not based on peculiarities of shapes, as suggested years ago by Sir William Roberts, but upon comparative average sizes. For instance, where small cuboidal epithelia are found which are *one-third* larger than the pus corpuscles found in the same urine, these epithelia come from the convoluted tubules of the kidney. As the epithelia from the ureters and prostate are only slightly larger than those from the kidney (being, according to Dr. Heitzmann, about twice the size of the pus corpuscles), it is evident that care and discrimination are necessary in making the diagnosis. It is the opinion of the writer of this review, however, that this care will be well repaid, for it has been his practical experience that where the urine contains pus corpuscles, and cuboidal epithelia one-third larger than the pus corpuscles, there will invariably be clinical evidences of more or less nephritis; and the practitioner who takes the trouble to follow up this subject will be glad to find that he is able readily to detect the many gradations of nephritis which precede the cast stage, and to see his cases of so-called "functional albuminuria" becoming fewer.

Dr. Heitzmann's chapter on Casts is excellent, and the portion relating to pseudo-casts is of great value, as it is unfortunately a fact that mucous casts and bacterial casts are only too often raised to a dignity they are not entitled to. Even careful insurance examiners have been known to call these appearances hyaline and granular casts.

The chapters on Connective Tissue, on Tumors, and on Extraneous Matters, and the part on Urinary Diagnosis, are all excellent.

Regarding the chemical part of the book, there is not much to say except that it is short, practical, and distinctly secondary to the microscopical part, to which it is added in order to make the work complete. There are two hundred and thirteen pages in the microscopical part, with one hundred and eight original drawings from nature, and only twenty-seven pages in the chemical part—an eminently satisfactory apportionment from the standpoint of actual clinical value to the practitioner.

To sum up, it is a subject for congratulation that we have now a book which does away with the old time honored plates (which each text book seems to have inherited from its predecessor) and gives us some crisp new plates drawn to definite scale. It is also subject for congratulation to find a book which, while adding much that is new, at the same time simplifies the whole subject and materially clears the atmosphere.

W. L. B.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ANNUAL AND PRACTITIONER'S INDEX: A Work of Reference for Medical Practitioners. 1899. Seventeenth Year. Pp. 758, illustrated. New York: E. B. Treat & Co.

This Annual, now appearing for the seventeenth time, is a compilation of abstracts by thirty-two contributors. It treats of all branches of medicine, the various subjects being arranged in alphabetical order. Reference to its contents is also facilitated by a general index. Special chapters are devoted to the subjects of pathogenic bacteria, which is illustrated by a number of colored plates, legal decisions affecting medical questions, and sanitary science. The work is supplied with plates and illustrations where these are necessary.

PROGRESSIVE MEDICINE. A Quarterly Digest of Advances, Discoveries, and Improvements in the Medical and Surgical Sciences. Edited by HOBART AMORY HARE, M.D., Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, etc. Vol. I. March, 1899. Surgery of the Head, Neck, and Chest; Diseases of Children; Pathology; Infectious Diseases, including Croupous Pneumonia; Laryngology and Rhinology; Otology. Pp. 490. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1899.

With this volume a new member of the family of medical annuals is presented to the profession. In his preface the editor announces the intention of recording only such articles as contain facts of intrinsic worth and indicate actual progress in the field of medical research. The new annual commends itself by adherence to this policy, the result being a thoroughly readable and admirably systematized compendium of the advances made during the past year. Its clearness from a typographical standpoint leaves nothing to be desired. The subject of Surgery of the Head, Neck, and Chest is treated by J. Chalmers Da Costa, of the Jefferson Medical College, in a most interesting chapter. Alexander D. Blackader, of McGill University,

presents a number of well-selected abstracts covering the ground of Diseases of Children. A thoroughly systematic review of Pathology by Ludwig Hektoen, of Rush Medical College, follows. Under the heading of Infectious Diseases William Sydney Thayer, of Johns Hopkins University, summarizes recent articles upon malaria, typhoid, diphtheria, the bubonic plague, epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, pneumonia, and yellow fever. Laryngology and Rhinology are discussed by A. Logan Turner, of the University of Edinburgh; and Otology by Robert L. Randolph, of Johns Hopkins University. An index renders the contents of the annual accessible.
