

SURGERY, ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, by various authors.
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THE second and third volumes of Keen's *Surgery* have followed with reasonable promptness the publication of Volume I, which was reviewed in these columns little more than a year ago. Volume II includes articles on diseases of bones, by Nichols, of Boston; fractures, by Eisendrath; surgery of joints, by Lovett and Nichols; dislocations, by Eisendrath; surgery of muscles, tendons, and bursæ, by Binnie; orthopedic surgery, by Lovett; surgery of the lymphatic system, by Gerrish; surgery of the skin, by John A. Fordyce, of New York; pathology of surgical disorders of the nervous system, by W. G. Spiller, of Philadelphia; surgery of the

nerves, by George Woolsey; traumatic neurasthenia, traumatic hysteria, and traumatic insanity, by F. X. Dercum; surgery among the insane, by J. Chalmers DaCosta; and surgery of the spine, by George Woolsey.

Among such a wide range of subjects, it will be impossible to select more than a few for comment. The surgery of the osseous system is well presented in the chapters by Nichols, Eisendrath, and Lovett; yet, in the treatment of the important subjects of fractures and dislocations, we must confess to disappointment. It is certainly simple, but it is scarcely satisfying, to be told that traumatic delirium is delirium tremens in non-alcoholics. The presentation of gunshot fractures is inadequate. In rupture of the main artery of a limb, Dr. Eisendrath advises immediate amputation. Perhaps at the present day it would not have been entirely out of place at least to suggest an attempt at arteriorrhaphy.

The classification of joint diseases adopted by Nichols, in describing their pathology, is not followed by Lovett in discussing the surgery of joints. The former adheres to a pathological classification rather than an etiological, because various causes produce identical lesions, and because the same cause at different times produces different lesions. The surgery of joints is discussed under the following heads: (1) Acute and chronic synovitis; (2) infective arthritis (gonorrhoeal, influenzal, typhoid, rheumatic, etc.); (3) arthritis deformans; and (4) tuberculosis. Lovett considers tuberculin unreliable for diagnosis; he gives the ultimate mortality for spine and hip tuberculosis as 30 per cent. If a cold abscess is very large, he advises that it be incised and cleansed, but neither packed nor sutured.

From the violence of the manipulations advised in the bloodless reduction of congenital dislocations of the hip, it is small wonder that Lovett states that "excessive extravasations are usual and temporary paralyses are not uncommon accompaniments of the operation." He reports 62.5 per cent. of anatomical repositions among 32 cases, secured by manipulation, at the Boston Children's Hospital. It would seem, on the other hand, that his strictures upon the dangers of instrumental force in correcting club-foot deformities argue either inexperience of these methods or unjustifiable force. The bibliography to the chapter on orthopedic surgery is very large, occupying two pages and a half, and apparently has been considerably reduced by the editors, a number of references in the text (Nos. 34 to 69, inclusive, for example) being wanting in the table of authorities cited.

The account of the surgery of the lymphatic system, by Gerrish, is admirable. He supports the view that it is a closed system. He maintains that Hodgkin's disease is an affection sui generis, neither tuberculous nor sarcomatous. There is included an exhaustive account of filariasis.

The surgery of the nervous system is admirably discussed by Spiller, Dercum, DaCosta, and Woolsey; but in the last article there is inserted an appalling list of *corrigenda*, which, alas! by no means includes all of the typographical errors. Spiller discountenances routine operation for fracture of the vertebræ; he advises against radical operation for glioma of the brain, holding decompression sufficient; he thinks gumma of the brain very unusual, stating that the lesion is much more apt to be meningitis or arteritis. Woolsey seems inclined to accept the theory of peripheral regeneration of axones. DaCosta, in discussing craniotomy for microcephalus, says with characteristic force that "the surgeon who removes a strip of the skull in order to cause the brain to develop acts as wisely as would a man in removing a section from the dome of a cathedral in order to increase the stature of the archbishop."

Volume III opens with an article on the surgery of the head, by Harvey Cushing. There follow chapters on the surgery of the neck, by E. Wyllys Andrews, of Chicago; on diseases of the thyroid gland, by Dr. Albert Kocher; on the nose and its accessory sinuses, by Harmon Smith, of New York; the larynx, the trachea, and the thorax, by George E. Brewer, of New York; surgery of the breast, by Finney; of the mouth, teeth, and jaws, by Edmund Owen; of the tongue, by Da Costa; on the technique of abdominal surgery, the surgery of the abdominal wall, of the retroperitoneal space, and of the peritoneum, by John C. Munro, of Boston; surgery of the œsophagus, by Professor Gottstein, of Breslau; of the stomach, by Mayo Robson; of the liver, gall-bladder, and the biliary ducts, by William J. and Charles H. Mayo; and on the pancreas and spleen, by Moynihan.

The most valuable as well as the longest (260 pages) of these articles is that by Cushing, on the surgery of the head. It fully justifies for itself the claim made by the publishers for all the articles, namely, that of being a complete monograph on the subject discussed. The article is encyclopedic; we have noticed no faults of omission, and if there be any fault of commission, it is, perhaps, shown in the tendency to regard the operation described as "subtemporal decompression" as a panacea. The account of the mechanism of skull fractures is illuminating. Cushing deprecates search for the bullet in gunshot wounds; he urges the operative treatment of hemorrhages in the new born; he prefers ligation of the carotid to ligation of the orbital veins for pulsating exophthalmos; he advises postponing exploration for brain abscess until a day or two after cleaning out the mastoid, to see whether the symptoms subside; he repeatedly warns against the danger of indiscriminate lumbar puncture; and he regards as useless the time-honored practice of venesection for cerebral compression, because high blood pressure is the result, not the cause, of the condition. He thinks craniocerebral topography overestimated, because it is never

entirely accurate; he prefers to class as endotheliomas tumors commonly known as fibrosarcomas; he insists on the difficulty which sometimes exists in differentiating the cerebral symptoms of nephritis from those of brain tumor; and he states that apoplexy in the young is not infrequently due to hemorrhage into a tumor in a silent region of the brain. He never uses the dental engine, preferring hand-driven instruments.

The article on the surgery of the neck is carelessly written, and the appended bibliography is a mere jumble of titles, useless, because no references to them are to be found in the text.

Dr. Kocher writes that "the function of the parathyroids is partly, or perhaps chiefly, to take up the toxic or secretory materials of the thyroid gland and to prepare them for more rapid excretion through the kidneys." He states of surgical treatment of Graves' disease that "to say that this is still the best is not enough." But it must be acknowledged that this dictum is based on empiricism rather than on pathology, and that it is liable to be questioned so soon as the pathology of the disease shall be thoroughly understood. Prof. Kocher's 200 operations for Graves' disease gave an operative mortality of 4.5 per cent., with 85 per cent. of cures.

Apart from a rather overcolored picture which he draws of the advantages of Sauerbruch's air chamber, there is nothing particularly noteworthy in Dr. Brewer's chapter on thoracic surgery. Finney gives a good account of Paget's disease of the nipple, and insists on its malignancy; but his descriptions of tumors of the breast lack definiteness.

Owen contributes an excellent article on surgical affections of the mouth, teeth, and jaws. He candidly says that patients with epithelioma of the mouth usually come to the surgeon in such a condition that if he considered only his own peace of mind he would decline to interfere. DaCosta, writing on the surgery of the tongue, insists on the removal of the lymph nodes, even in the "earliest" cases, stating that they are always microscopically invaded, and that if the base of the tongue is involved, both sides of the neck are infected.

Munro's articles on the abdomen, while excellent, present nothing calling for special comment. It may be thought that he aimed to condemn with faint praise Ochsner's treatment of peritonitis. He gives no satisfactory idea of the prognosis in cases of diffuse peritonitis under any form of treatment.

Robson urges gastro-enterostomy for ulcer of the stomach, even if the ulcer be excised. He advises free irrigation in "general septic peritonitis" from perforation, and also urges gastro-enterostomy after suture of the perforation if the patient can bear it. The Mayo brothers minimize the functional value of the gall-bladder; they have removed it in one out of every three patients. The article is particularly good in description of operative detail, but leaves something to be desired in regard to the pathogenesis of

these diseases. Moynihan's chapters on the pancreas and spleen are characterized by their comprehensiveness, and by the author's usual clearness of diction.

As a whole, the several chapters furnish their readers with a representative account of modern surgery, in which practice decidedly overshadows principle, but which, in a few instances, include enough of the latter to render them absolutely authoritative.

A. P. C. A.