

REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MENSTRUAL FUNCTION ON CERTAIN DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By L. Duncan Bulkley, A.M., M.D., Physician to the New York Skin and Cancer Hospital. London: Rebman Limited. Price 5s.

This interesting volume is the outcome of personal observations supplemented by clinical records from medical literature, and its object is to show that the menstrual function has a pronounced influence on many different diseased conditions of the skin. Dr. Bulkley teaches us that not only does the approach of the normal menstrual flow often aggravate a pre-existing chronic skin disease, but that it may be responsible for the regular recurrence of a disease on an otherwise perfectly healthy skin. Of the numerous diseases which tend to be aggravated by menstruation, acne vulgaris is familiar enough, but of the diseases which may recur with each menstruation the so-called menstrual erysipelas is certainly the most remarkable, inasmuch as one patient is credited with no fewer than fifty attacks. The association of hæmorrhagic eruptions with menstruation is of unusual interest owing to the fact that they are often claimed as examples of vicarious menstruation; the cases quoted by the author certainly seem to support these claims. The pigmentary changes of the skin are considered under the category of chloasma and melanoderma, and the reader is warned that some of the cases appear to be instances of feigned eruption—a point which ought not to be ignored. Of the many theories put forward to explain the derangements associated with menstruation, the author discusses only those dealing with “cyclic changes,” auto-intoxication, and nervous irritation from the genital organs. These theories, from the point of view of cutaneous disorders, are not considered to be necessarily conflicting but to be even complementary one to the other. By way of conclusion to an exceedingly instructive work, treatment on broad lines is advocated—treatment to bring the whole organic system into more perfect working order, so that both the disordered menstruation and its manifest derangements may be removed together.

E. S.

OPERATIVE GYNÆCOLOGY. By Howard A. Kelly, A.B., M.D., LL.D., Hon. F.R.C.S., Ed., Professor of Gynæcological Surgery in the Johns Hopkins University, etc. With 11 plates and 703 original illustrations, for the most part by Max Brödel. Two vols. Second edition, revised and enlarged. London: Sidney Appleton, 1906.

(Second Notice.)

VOL. II.

The following continues the brief review of each chapter which was begun in the March number of the JOURNAL:—

Chap. XXVI. On "The General Principles common to Abdominal Operations."

The whole of this chapter has been re-written, and the section on "Drainage" has several new illustrations. That on postural drainage is a useful one.

Chap. XXVII. On "The Care of the Patient up to Recovery."

(Enthusiastic golfers may notice with regret that the author's former recommendation of the virtues of golf appears to have been purposely omitted from the present volume.)

Chap. XXVIII. On "Complications."

Additional material may be noticed in the sections on "Shock" and on the "Diagnosis and Treatment of Septic Peritonitis."

Chap. XXIX. On "Suspension of the Uterus."

This has been re-written, and some of the old illustrations are left out. At the close of the chapter a full description is given of "Gilliam's Operation of Implantation of the Round Ligaments." This is curious, as no reference is made to the more classical and better operation of simple shortening of the ligaments.

Chap. XXX. On "Conservative Operations."

In this chapter there is a good deal of fresh material (chiefly from other sources), but neither here nor in the chapter on "Ovariectomy" do we find any mention of "lutein cysts" and the recent investigations regarding their special features and origin.

Chap. XXXI. On "Salpingo-oöphorectomy."

Chap. XXXII. On "Vaginal Drainage and Enucleation."

Chap. XXXIII. On "Tubercular Peritonitis."

(This was formerly inserted before the consideration of suspension of the uterus.)

Chap. XXXIV. On "Hysterectomy."

This, as one of the most important "operative" chapters, has received special revision and undergone considerable enlargement. The pages from 259 to 270 are entirely original, and seven new illustrations are given showing the author's method of bisection of the uterus as applied to the removal of the greater part of the uterus and the uterine appendages for severe inflammatory disease. The French method of doing a similar operation by initial division of the cervix above the pelvic floor (without bisection) is possibly better and quicker, but such modifications are not recognized or mentioned.

Chap. XXXV. On "Ovariectomy."

Two new illustrations form a special feature of this chapter: the one is a coloured plate showing hæmorrhagic infarction from twisting of the pedicle, and the other (Fig. 479) is an illustration of an ovarian fibroma which has suffered from a similar accident.

Chap. XXXVI. On "Myomectomy and Hystero-myomectomy."

This is another of the great "operative" chapters that will well repay a careful study. Figs. 505 and 506 are fresh illustrations. Dr. Noble's statistical series of complications is introduced on page 372. Three new and very useful figures, illustrating a special case, are Figs. 530, 531 and 532. There is a rearrangement regarding adeno-myoma. This is now considered fully at the end of the chapter. There is another series of figures illustrating a special case and worthy of special notice, viz., Figs. 534, 535, 536 and 537. Fig. 541 is also new. In many difficult cases of hystero-myomectomy the author now advises bisection of the uterus, but the cases he reports need to be studied individually, and some of the methods employed by him are original, very suggestive and helpful.

Chap. XXXVII. On "Abdominal Hysterectomy for Sarcoma."

This subject has now a chapter to itself, and is illustrated by several additional figures (558—563). In one case (see Fig. 562) the sarcoma grew from the cervical stump of a two years old hysterectomy.

Chap. XXXVIII. On "Abdominal Hysterectomy for Cancer." (Prepared by Dr. John A. Sampson.)

This is the most important chapter of the book. It is all practically new, and forms the latest and finest monograph that we possess on cancer of the uterus and its surgical treatment. It is full of information and contains a large number of valuable and original illustrations. Many of these are coloured and show an artistic beauty of execution that deserves the warmest acknowledgment and praise.

Chap. XXXIX. On "Extra-uterine Pregnancy."

This has been generally re-written, and the section on "Clinical History" is considerably enlarged. There are several new illustrations, but neither illustrations nor text appear to deal with the relation of the pregnancy to the lumen of the tube—a subject which has attracted considerable attention during recent years and which probably has considerable pathological and clinical significance.

*Chap. XL. On "Gynæcological Affections in Childhood."**Chap. XLI. On "The Radical Cure of Hernia."*

The chief new point in this chapter is the description of Mayo's operation for umbilical hernia.

Chap. XLII. On "Intestinal Complications."

This describes the "crushing" operation for removal of the appendix instead of the "collar" operation which formerly "held the field."

Chap. XLIII. On "The more remote results of Abdominal Operations."

This chapter concludes the book.

On bringing to a close this review of the second edition of Prof. Kelly's work, we cannot refrain from expressing how much we owe to the courage, painstaking work and careful observation of the distinguished author. The most appreciative recognition of this, however, cannot blind us to the fact that the gynæcology of the British Empire has been very much neglected in its compilation, and that the book suffers for want of a due appreciation of recent English work and of operative methods, both English and French, in the treatment of gynæcological disease. To the English student and operator this is perhaps of less moment than to the American student. Knowing well, as he should do, the literature of his own country, the English surgeon will be able to supplement what is lacking in the volumes before us, and no single book for reference or study will so help him in difficult cases as this latest edition of the "Operative Gynæcology."

J. W. T.

THE BRADSHAW LECTURE FOR 1906 ON "CANCER: ITS TREATMENT BY MODERN METHODS." [Delivered at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.] By Edmund Owen, F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Price 1s.

This is not a great lecture, but it touches a variety of subjects lightly, and is written in an easy style. The author begins with the emphatic statement that in the present state of knowledge and experience the only way in which the cure of a cancer can be obtained is by its prompt and thorough removal by operation. But he is careful to point out that it is beyond the power of surgery as well as of all other vaunted methods of treatment to promise a cure of cancer. As examples of the modern thorough operation, the present methods of dealing with cancer of the breast, lips and tongue are cited, and incidentally he refers to the pioneer work of Sir William Mitchell Banks in advocating the complete removal of the breast and glands for cancer, and insists that his teaching has not received the recognition which it justly deserved. A tribute is paid to the good work done under the auspices of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and the lecturer concludes with a prophecy that the final victory over cancer will not be solely by the knife.

J. H. T.

THE PREVENTION OF CANCER AND ITS RELATION TO THAT OF SOME OTHER DISEASES AND CALAMITIES. By C. B. Keetley, F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1907.

This is a well-meaning little pamphlet containing four or five short papers on the supposed infection of cancer and the "inter-relationship of

cancer, tubercle, venereal diseases and other social calamities." It is obviously too vague to have any great scientific value, but the general suspicion among many trained observers, that cancer is very likely due to some *moral cause* (as voiced by Professor Kelly at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Leicester), may well incite some real painstaking investigation on the question. Until this is done and the way of prevention is more clearly known, any rash publication of ill-founded suspicions may bring an additional burden on the poor and (possibly) innocent sufferer who is already crushed by an overwhelming affliction.

J. W. T.