

Dr. Hewitt estimates that when the tumours are growing or progressive, the chances are 10 to 1 in favour of death within two years when the tumours are of large size; in other words, death is within this period of time the natural termination in 90 per cent. of such cases. The following table gives the last results of ovariectomy in the hands of those who have operated most frequently in this country, and who have contributed the statistics of their operations. The table is brought down as late as the month of September, 1863:—

Name of Operator.	Total number of completed Operations.	Cures.	Deaths.
Mr. Baker Brown	58	32	26
Dr. Clay	107	73	34
Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson.	7	4	3
Mr. Lane	11	8	3
Dr. Tyler Smith... ..	19	15	4
Mr. Spencer Wells	74	49	25

Thus the average per-centage of cures will be found to be 65, the highest and lowest being 55 and 78 respectively. It is worthy of remark, that the success of the operation is progressive. The results are better in recent years than in the early years of the operation. This augurs well for the future, and we may reasonably hope that with greater certainty of diagnosis, simplicity in operating, and careful after-treatment, ovariectomy will contrast favourably with many other operations of less importance. Our author reviews the various arguments used against the operation, the different modes of performing it, and the after-treatment. We need hardly say, from what has already been stated, that Dr. Hewitt is distinctly and unreservedly in favour of the operation in suitable cases. One of the most important points in regard to the operation is the study of the causes of death in the fatal cases; and upon this vital topic we make our concluding quotation from Dr. Hewitt's painstaking and able volume.

"Lastly, the operation of ovariectomy must be considered as a whole, and some reference made to the principles, so to speak, which must guide us if we are to meet with success in its performance. Dr. Tyler Smith has well and ably urged the great importance of guarding against poisonous external influences, and the observance, in short, of all those precautions which are so essential in ordinary obstetric practice, and by which alone we are able to prevent puerperal fever. The causes of mortality from ovariectomy are chiefly two—hæmorrhage and peritonitis in its various forms. In some few cases, but very few, collapse follows the operation. The hæmorrhage is generally preventable by adopting proper precautions of various kinds. One precaution particularly insisted on by Dr. Tyler Smith is the transfixing the pedicle before tying it, as this prevents slipping of the ligature. The chief mortality—48 per cent. according to Dr. Clay—arises from peritonitis. This, probably, means blood-poisoning, and its effects in various degrees of intensity. It is very certain, at any rate, that the peritonitis liable to occur after ovariectomy is best treated by giving stimulants and remedies of a sustaining and not a lowering character."

These observations indicate the modes in which the mortality from ovariectomy may be diminished, and they must be borne in mind by all those who venture upon the operation, by the veterans of many triumphs, and more especially by those who attempt it for the first time.

We may sum up our opinion of Dr. Graily Hewitt's work by saying that it offers to students an excellent guide in the department of diseases of women, while the busy and mature practitioner will find it fairly full in all that relates to pathology, diagnosis, and treatment. The volume is written in a clear, terse, and unaffected style. In describing the opinions of others the author is uniformly fair and courteous, not afraid to controvert views which he believes to be wrong, but never doing it without giving the grounds of his dissent. In discussing opposing views he weighs carefully the merits of both parties, and is more pleased to show when and how they can be recon-

ciled, than to magnify their points of difference. No one who knows what is passing in gynaecology can doubt that, on the whole, the tendency of the last twenty years has been towards local views and local treatment. There has been one advantage in this—namely, that in no other similar period of time in the history of Medicine has an equal stride been made towards a familiar acquaintance with this formerly mysterious class of maladies. While admitting the paramount importance of local examination and local treatment, Dr. Hewitt claims a large place for constitutional measures, in combination, but not in opposition to, or substitution for, those of a topical character. We venture to say that he will best treat uterine and ovarian disease, and the various ailments of the female sexual organs, who is the most perfect master of all that is purely local, and who at the same time holds broadly in view the constitutional conditions with which these are connected both in the way of cause and effect. This standard is that at which Dr. Hewitt aims throughout his work, and to which he, in a great and laudable degree, attains.

The Useful Knowledge Society's Family Atlas. Parts I. and II. E. Stanford.

THESE parts consist of coloured maps of the world on Mercator's projection, Asia, Africa, New Zealand, Italy, and Switzerland. They are carefully corrected up to the present date, and contain all the latest discoveries. A Thumb Index is added, to facilitate reference to the maps.

MEDICAL PROTECTION SOCIETIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The past year has clearly shown that the medical profession as a body is in a disorganized state. During the year 1863 our law courts have furnished evidence of the strongest character that the medical profession requires internal regulation. As a member of the profession, I would humbly suggest the propriety of some means being adopted for the protection of those against whom actions at law may be instituted for causes arising out of the practice of their profession. I feel that it is an invidious position in which to place the medical journals of this country that they should be called on to determine the merit of cases deserving the support of the profession; and therefore I recognise the necessity of the formation of a society for the protection of its members from vexatious actions. I shall personally be most happy to see such a society established, and to lend any assistance in my power, by subscription or influence, to promote its objects.

I am, Sir, yours most obediently,

Warwick-terrace, Pimlico, Jan. 1864.

JOHN BRADY, M.P.

LARGE EXHIBITION OF PORT WINE IN TYPHOID FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave briefly to place on record the fact that, in a case of typhoid fever which has lately occurred in my practice, the patient, a young woman, confined three weeks before the attack in question, took, during a few days, when the sinking and prostration were most urgent, *four bottles of port wine daily*. This large quantity of wine was taken eagerly, producing none but the best effect, and an excellent recovery has followed its exhibition.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

L. REDWOOD, M.R.C.S.E.

The Lawn, Rhymney Iron Works, Jan. 1864.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—There have been several changes at this hospital during the past few months. Mr. Heath and Dr. Gibb, who are now attached to the Westminster Hospital, have resigned their appointments, and have been succeeded by Dr. Logan and Mr. W. F. Teevan, whilst the two latter gentlemen are replaced by Dr. Maudesley and Mr. Fairlie Clarke.