Reviews.

ELECTRICITY IN THE DISEASES OF WOMEN, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE APPLICATION OF STRONG CURRENTS.

By G. Betton Massey, M.D. Physician to the Nervous Department of Howard Hospital, etc., Philadelphia. F. A. Davis, 1889, pp. viii.—210 (price, \$1.50).

A book upon a subject which has attracted so much attention as the electrical treatment of diseases of women has, must prove of great practical interest and utility, inasmuch as a thorough summary and critical digest of our knowledge upon this subject was, prior to the appearance of this book, still lacking.

In the introductory chapter the author says, that the keynote to the progress in the gynæcological use of electricity has been the use of a single pole for treatment. That a full test of the practical utility of electricity in gynæcology, shows that it is an agent capable of being properly applied without the need of a great amount of technical skill and that the necessary skill can be readily gained by anyone, even the busy general practitioner. The main object of this book is to verify these statements. Certainly the author is sufficiently modest in his purpose, which he fully succeeds in accomplishing. His book is exceedingly practical, with an almost complete absence of theory. It is, however, an open question whether the theoretically well informed electro-therapeutist does not possess advantages which the practically educated one must forego.

Chapter II describes the apparatus required in gynæcological applications of the galvanic current. The graphite rheostat described as the "author's rheostat" should be called Rudisch's rheostat modified by Massey. A paragraph devoted to the use of the incandescent light current in medical work, is of decided utility.

Chapter III on experiments illustrating the physical qualities of galvanic currents, contains a number of experiments which are of a simple and practical nature and are, undoubtedly of great value to the beginner in the study of electricity.

Chapter IV treats of the "action of concentrated milliampère currents on organized tissues." Precisely what is meant by a milliampère current is difficult to understand. The term is not a good one.

The other chapters on the methods of treatment hardly call for a review in this Journal. The book is one which is deserving of great praise and will prove of undoubted utility to every worker in this branch.

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