"nothing can be more absurd and reprehensible" than the practice of administering drugs with the view of curing such growths, especially as the drugs usually selected are of a very depressing character. "It is only necessary," he says, "to examine a single ovarian tumour to see that such agents cannot by any possibility do good." Tapping and injecting iodine is not recommended; for, like most authorities, the author recognises in ovariectomy the only legitimate surgical treatment. But we are disappointed at not seeing any statistics of this most interesting subject from the author's own practice. That he has operated on several occasions, and successfully too, we know, and we should have been glad therefore to learn from him the numerical value of his experience.

Turning now for a few moments from this new chapter to others of old acquaintance, we are glad to see the decided tone which Dr. Tanner everywhere maintains in favour of what may be called Nature's treatment of acute diseases. We remarked not long since on the great success which Dr. Hughes Bennett had achieved in the treatment of pneumonia. He has demonstrated, indeed, that in simple uncomplicated cases the tendency is not towards death, but towards recovery. Dr. Tanner appears in the main to endorse that treatment, and expresses his conviction that "bleeding, tartar emetic, and mercury do much more harm than good;" and he adds, "it is the more necessary to insist on this point, because some of our best books still advocate depletion." This is greatly to be regretted; especially as we know that in some cases those who recommend this in their works never put it into practice. The fact is that, for some unaccountable reason, our teachers are for the most part afraid to strike out in this bold course; and both in their lectures and in their writings they still think it necessary to recommend the traditional routine to bleed and blister, to give calomel and antimony. Dr. Tanner is an unmitigated opponent of all this, and a staunch supporter of conservative medicine; and even in inflammatory affections of the nervous centres he does not hesitate to recommend stimulants occasionally. It is daily becoming more and more evident that, in medicine, as in morals, we have no right to do evil that good may come. We had far better leave acute disease to the kindly influence of Nature, than rudely interfere with her processes by the rough handling of empirical art. Nowhere that we have been able to find does Dr. Tanner recommend depletion. On the contrary, he everywhere speaks of a restorative system; and though he does not back his opinion by any reference to the statistics of his practice, he yet expresses himself so dogmatically that his mind has evidently been made up by close observation and experience. In the treatment of croup, pneumonia, acute bronchitis, pericarditis, and even cerebritis, his one strain is: a disbelief in the utility of mercury to cut short inflammation; a conviction that both antimony and tartar emetic are worse than useless; and that wine or brandy, liberal diet, sedatives, and rest, are the all-important agents of cure. There is no more remarkable feature in the history of our profession than the revulsion which has taken place in the last ten years against "lowering treatment;" and the favour with which such works as those of Bennett and Tanner are regarded is proof that their principles are approved by the profession, and will be more and more practised as the influence of tradition dies out.

But we have already extended our observations beyond the limits we intended, and though there are many other subjects upon which we should have wished to remark, the space at our disposal compels us to stop. The book is creditable alike to the author and the publisher.

POISONING BY MISTAKE.—An inquest has been lately held at Brighton on a gentleman of eighty years of age, who died from taking tincture of aconite in mistake for tincture of henbane. The evidence was somewhat vague, but the inquiry ended in a verdict equivalent to manslaughter against Mr. Noakes, a highly respectable druggist in the town.

MIDWIFERY STATISTICS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following is an analysis of my midwifery practice for the last twenty-eight years:—

ANALYSIS OF 3173 MIDWIFERY CASES FROM OCT. 10TH, 1836, TO DEC. 13TH, 1864.

Operations.

Craniotomy ...	14	...	...	—
Forceps ...	57	...	...	17 still-born.
Turned ...	34	...	...	7 alive.
Fillet ...	16	...	...	2 still-born.

Presentations.

Head and funis ...	5	...	...	3 alive.
Head and foot ...	1	...	...	Alive.
Head and hand ...	2	...	...	Ditto.
Head and both hands	1	...	...	Still-born.
Head, hand, funis, and foot ...	1	...	...	Still-born.
Face ...	15	...	...	13 alive.
Face to pubis ...	10	...	...	9 alive.
Shoulder ...	4	...	...	2 alive.
Hand and arm ...	20	...	...	4 alive.
Hand and funis ...	5	...	...	Still-born.
Arm, knee, and funis	1	...	...	Alive.
Elbow ...	2	...	...	Still-born.
Breech ...	32	...	...	10 still-born.
Footlings ...	38	...	...	12 alive.
Footlings and funis	3	...	...	Alive.
Breech and foot ...	1	...	...	Alive.
Funis ...	14	...	...	Still-born.

A full-sized placenta, with blighted embryo.

Other Cases.

Extraction of placenta	24	...	...	—
Cauls ...	8	...	...	7 alive.
Twin cases ...	39	...	...	Ditto.
Seven months ...	18	...	...	9 alive.
Abortions ...	390	...	...	—
Monsters and deformities	21	...	...	—
Placenta prævia ...	3	...	...	1 alive.
Puerperal convulsions	2	...	...	—
Natural cases still-born	102	...	...	—

Death of mother, 8—1 apoplexy, 3 convulsions, 1 hæmorrhage, 1 syncope, 1 ruptured uterus, 1 doubtful.

Secale cornutum given, 449—49 still-born.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Macclesfield, 1865. WM. LONEY, M.R.C.S.

THE DISEASE AMONG HORNED CATTLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Everyone knows that nitrogenous food is requisite for the due performance of the function of life in man, and that the meat should be healthy is equally true; and yet when we walk through the streets of London and look into the butchers' shops, how much meat we see that is diseased, how much liver and lights studded with tubercle. Seeing this to be the case, can we feel surprised that there is so much disease in the human subject? How can it be expected that healthy tissues can be formed from unhealthy meat? And now that so many cattle are dying from the effects of the Russian plague, could we be surprised if such diseased meat, in spite of the measures taken by Government, should find its way into the London market? And Government will rightly ask us, How may it be prevented? And here it might be well if we took a lesson from our friends and neighbours, the French, who have large slaughterhouses outside their towns, and before any animal is killed it must be found healthy, and a Government certificate of the same given with the meat; and, moreover, without such certificate it (the meat) is not allowed to be exposed for sale. Trusting that these few remarks may be of use,

I remain, yours faithfully,
Bury, Aug. 1865. C. B. ROMULUS, M.R.C.S.

WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITAL.—It is intended to erect new fever wards in the grounds of the Wolverhampton Hospital, separate from the main building.