lieved all the cases in the paper had been fairly named. Many of them were in young females; and certainly none of them were gonorrhoeal rheumatism. Touching the date of the commencement of pericarditis, he called attention to the possibility of overlooking the very strictly localised creak, which sometimes exists for three or four days before being developed into a well-marked murmur.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 1869.

DR. HALL DAVIS, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Dr. E. L. Fergusson and Mr. W. H. Lydall were elected Fellows.

Dr. J. B. Hicks exhibited the Head of a Fœtus, which had been delivered, after perforation, by the assistance of the cephalotribe. The antero-posterior diameter of the maternal pelvis was about three inches, the fœtus very large, and the head highly ossified. The instrument had seized it obliquely over one orbit and the occipital bone on the opposite side. The calvaria was crushed in on to the base, and the delivery was effected without difficulty. Dr. Hicks pointed out the great facility and safety with which the head was abstracted after crushing, compared with the use of the crotchet or craniotomy forceps, which he thought it was destined, in a great measure, to supersede. He remarked that there seemed to be a difficulty with some writers in dissociating cephalotripsy from utter crushing of the head, whereas in most cases the effect was rather to crush down the vault into the base; the fact being that it was impossible to secure the base steadily between the grip of the blades. Very frequently the base tilted so that the flattening of the skull was effected in a vertical rather than a lateral direction. This produced the same advantage, because in this case the instrument would compress down to an inch and a half, through a pelvis of which size it would rarely be possible to deliver by the cephalotribe; while in lateral pressure the long diameter of the head would remain, instead of the transverse, as in vertical pressure.

Dr. MEADOWS exhibited a new Vaginal Speculum. It resembles Cusco's in regard to the two blades, upper and lower, whose divergence is effected by a simple act of pressure; but to prevent the lateral folds of the vagina from falling down between the blades, and obstructing vision, Dr. Meadows has adapted another narrow blade to each side, making four blades in all. These latter, when the instrument is closed, fall within the two larger blades, and are so hidden as not to interfere with easy introduction. The same act of pressure expands all four blades at once.

Dr. GERVIS exhibited a large Polypus Uteri. This specimen was taken from a patient whose labour, owing to the large size of the growth, and unusually extensive attachments to the cervix uteri and vaginal walls, had to be terminated by craniotomy. On the fifth day after the confinement, the tumour was removed by the single wire écraseur. The patient did well for some days, but ultimately succumbed to an attack of peritonitis, which, as appeared from the post-mortem examination, was unconnected with any pelvic mischief. The section of the cervix was healthy and healing, and the structure of the uterus, its peritoneal surface, and that of the broad ligaments, were free from any trace of inflammation; while, on the other hand, the coils of the small intestines were extensively agglutinated together by effused lymph. On section, the polypus displayed, in its interior, an oval fibrous tumour, enveloped in a capsule of true uterine tissue, which had been at the upper part continuous with that of the cervix. It is worthy of note, that during the first four months of her pregnancy, the patient had been subject to profuse hæmorrhage.

Dr. ROUTH exhibited for Dr. Griffith a curious Monstrosity. Extreme difficulty had been experienced in the delivery of this child, owing to the projection from the chin of a large bag containing fluid, and, in spite of craniotomy, the delivery could not be effected until this bag had been tapped. The mother did well.

Dr. ANDREW BROWN exhibited the uterus, fœtus, and parts concerned in a case of Extra-uterine Pregnancy, in which death had occurred when gestation was advanced to

about the fifth month. The illness, which followed an accidental rupture of the cyst, was short. During life she was not attended by any medical man. Details of the post-mortem were given.

Dr. GREENHALGH read a paper on a case of probable Rupture of the Uterus. The patient had reached the seventh month of her sixteenth pregnancy, when, after lifting a heavy weight, she was suddenly seized with agonising pain in the abdomen, followed by collapse. Acute peritonitis set in, and symptoms of a typhoid character. The uterus then became greatly distended, and in the umbilical region resonant on percussion, evidently from gaseous accumulation internally, owing to the decomposition of the fœtus. The membranes were then punctured, giving exit to a large quantity of fetid gas and turbid liquor amnii, and in about ten hours the fœtus was expelled. The patient regained her former health. The points of interest in the case were discussed at length.

The business of the annual meeting then commenced. The scrutineers, Dr. Brunton and Mr. Mitchell, declared the following to be the result of the ballot for the election of officers for the ensuing year:—

Honorary President: Sir C. Locock. President: Dr. Graily Hewitt. Vice-presidents: Dr. Langmore, Dr. Leishman (Glasgow), Dr. Priestley, Dr. Tilt, Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. Whitehead (Manchester). Treasurer: Dr. Meadows. Honorary Secretaries: Dr. Murray, Dr. Gervis. Honorary Librarian: Dr. Playfair. Honorary Members of Council: Dr. Tyler Smith, Dr. Oldham, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Hall Davis. Other Members of Council: Dr. Braithwaite (Leeds), Mr. Burton, Mr. Clay (Birmingham), Dr. Copeman (Norwich), Dr. Cory, Dr. Cumberbatch, Mr. Ellis, Dr. Greenhalgh, Mr. Haden, Dr. Hicks, Dr. Holman (Reigate), Mr. J. Hutchinson, Mr. Nunn, Dr. Parson, Dr. Roberts (Manchester), Mr. Scott, Dr. Smith (Weymouth), and Dr. Charles Taylor.

The report of the auditors (Dr. Rogers and Dr. Sansom) for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1868, was then read, from which it appeared that the receipts had been £842 13s. 6d., of which £62 7s. 2d. had arisen from the sale of the Transactions. The expenditure for the year was £751 0s. 9d., of which £406 4s. 6d. had been expended in furnishing and maintaining the library and museum, £217 17s. 3d. on the Transactions, and £128 19s. on general expenses. There was a balance in the treasurer's hands of £91 12s. 9d.

The report of the honorary librarian for the year 1868 was then read. After referring to the completeness with which the suite of rooms at 291, Regent-street, were furnished, and the arrangements made for the convenience of the Fellows, it stated that 96 volumes had been added during the year, 34 by purchase, and 62 by gift. In the museum there was now a tolerably complete collection of all modern instruments connected with obstetrics. The report concluded by referring to the formation of an interesting collection of portraits of Presidents and honorary Fellows, and to the gift of a handsome marble clock by Dr. Hall Davis.

The adoption of the reports of the auditors and of the honorary librarian was moved by Dr. AVELING, seconded by Dr. BRODIE, and carried unanimously.

Dr. BARNES then, on behalf of the Council, moved the following resolutions, which were seconded by Mr. MITCHELL, and carried unanimously:—1. That it is the opinion of the Obstetrical Society of London that the Obstetric Department of Medicine, and therefore the interests of the public, are inadequately represented in the General Medical Council. 2. That in the event of any revision of the constitution of the Council, provision should be made for the direct representation of obstetric practitioners and teachers. 3. That the Council be requested to draw up a memorial embodying these resolutions, to present it to the Home Secretary, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association, and to take such other measures as they may think useful in giving effect to them.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the annual address. He commenced by congratulating the Society on the increase in the number of its Fellows, of whom there were now more than 600. During the past year forty-four new Fellows had been elected. He then paid a tribute of respect to the memory of those Fellows who had died during the year: Dr. Turnbull, of Melbourne; Dr. Ray, of Dulwich; Mr. Tustin, of Ripon; Dr. Mackenzie, of Thetford; Dr. Rams-

botham, of Leeds; Dr. Lamb, of Maida Hill; and Dr. Pagan, of Glasgow. Reference was also made to the death of Dr. Francis Ramsbotham, to whom, although not a Fellow of this Society, many obstetric practitioners owed so much. The President then touched upon the many gratifying circumstances in connexion with the funds of the Society, the institution of its library and museum, and its steadily increasing reputation. He then urged the importance of there being a special representative of the obstetric interest in the Medical Council, so that the education of students in obstetrics might be better cared for than at present, the time now given to the teaching of midwifery and the diseases of women and children being quite inadequate to the importance and extent of the subject. After referring to the high character of the papers read during the year, to the work being done by the committee appointed to investigate the subject of infant mortality, and expressing a hope that other subjects connected with obstetric science would also be investigated from time to time through the action of committees, the President concluded by tendering to the Fellows of the Society his sincere thanks for the courtesy they had shown him during his tenure of office, and to the various officers for their never-failing services in furthering its prosperity.

On the motion of Dr. SEDGWICK, seconded by Dr. MARTYN, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the President for his address, and to the various officers of the Society for their valuable services.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Lectures on Surgery. Part I. By JAMES SPENCE, F.R.S.E., Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland, President of the College of Surgeons, &c. &c. pp. 237. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.

"THE publication in parts of the following lectures," says Mr. Spence, in his introductory notice, "has been adopted in order that the work might be available this session for students attending the class of surgery in the University, as the publication of the remaining and more practical portions could not be accomplished at a sufficiently early date." For our part, we should have preferred that the entire work were laid before us at once. The system of part-publication which has lately become so common is, in many ways, inconvenient to the reader; and, in the case of a new text-book on surgery, we can really see no occasion for hurry.

It would be impossible for Mr. Spence to subscribe his name to any work which did not contain much that is excellent; and the book before us will be found to abound with practical hints and just and weighty observations. We doubt, however, if it is suited to the wants of the student; and we doubt also very much if Mr. Spence exactly appreciates the peculiar exigencies in which a student is placed. It is true, perhaps, that these lectures contain all that is needed by a practitioner to enable him to treat the surgical diseases described in them; yet they certainly do not contain those especial and peculiar points which every student is required to know, and without the knowledge of which he would fail to acquit himself before any examining board. There is, so to speak, a certain routine knowledge which every candidate is obliged to learn; and it is this which we find eminently wanting in Mr. Spence's book. As an example of what we mean, in the chapter on Burns no allusion whatever is made to the famous division of Dupuytren; nor is any reference made to Curling's perforating ulcer of the duodenum. Again, in the chapter on Nævus and Erectile Tumours, the various methods of tying a nævus, which are intricate enough, are not described. The chapters on Inflammation are by far too graphic. In the observations on Erysipelas no mention whatever is made of the well-known divisions of Nunneley and Law-

rence, nor of the different modes of treatment employed by Hutchinson, South, and others.

Throughout the work no authorities are ever quoted; and, indeed, so completely does Mr. Spence appear to ignore them, that he remarks, *apropos* of erysipelas,—“This disease used formerly to be divided into several different species, according to the symptoms or termination of the inflammatory action. But we will simplify the subject without losing anything of its practical utility, by considering it under the several heads of Erythema, Biliois, Phlegmonous, and Edematous” (p. 89).

The late literature of syphilis, and the discoveries of modern observers, have also been similarly simplified. In twenty lines, Mr. Spence disposes of all that has been written on the unity and duality of the syphilitic virus. He says: “Some hold that the different characters of primary sores, and of their effects, show that there are two distinct forms of poison—one more virulent than the other; but from what I have seen myself, and judging from the evidence adduced, I do not believe in two distinct poisons, though I consider that the poison may differ in degree rather than in kind” (p. 152).

It is of this individual teaching that we complain; and it is exactly this which will render an otherwise excellent book useless to the ordinary student. We regret this the more, because, scattered desultorily through these pages, there is an amount of information and reflection of the most valuable description. It is possible that in the concluding numbers of this work these omissions may be rectified; but if so, we are sorry that it should have been given to the public in parts, and not as a whole.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

AT a meeting of the Social Science Association on Monday evening last, a letter from Dr. Fleetwood Buckle, containing statistics as to the administration of twenty-two metropolitan hospitals, was read by the Secretary. The accuracy of the information was impeached by Mr. Wilkinson, the Secretary of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and by Mr. Charles Hawkins. An interesting discussion arose, from which it appeared all but impossible to make any comparison between the expenditure of the various institutions, owing to the entire want of uniformity in the reports and accounts. The meeting unanimously resolved that it is desirable that these be presented in a uniform shape; and a committee was appointed to draw up a form of statement of accounts, which may be recommended to the various hospitals from this section of the Association, and that the committee be authorised to communicate with the authorities of the hospitals, and subsequently report to the Society upon the subject.

We conceive that no greater boon could be conferred upon these institutions and the public than a system which would enable everyone to see exactly how the funds of the public hospitals are dispensed. Without the least imputation of maladministration or culpable waste, which we believe to be extremely rare, it is acknowledged that there are great discrepancies between the cost of large and small hospitals, in the expense of food, nursing, and general management; that, in some cases, capital is trenched upon to meet urgent difficulties, whilst in other cases these difficulties are met by special appeals. We have no great faith in Government auditors, but we think the governors of the various hospitals would do wisely to assist the committee now appointed, in order that the reports and accounts might be uniformly made out, and that they should be submitted to an independent professional auditor provided by themselves.

THE Cutlers' Company have voted donations of ten guineas to Charing-cross, Middlesex, King's College, Royal Free, Great Northern, West London, and St. Mary's Hospitals.