In this manner the author shows how the operation of extirpation of thyroid tumors was advanced and declined in different periods of surgical history, and this idea is illustrated by appropriate tables and a chart.

The author regards the present time as an epoch in the history of goitre and its treatment, when the antiseptic method has been fully mastered, and yet no longer embarrasses our critical judgment as to final results, and when our knowledge of complicating conditions after operations for goitre, such as the "cachexia strumipriva," has increased, although he fully realizes how much there still remains to be done, in order to answer the many vexed questions connected with his theme.

The work, compiled with an extraordinary amount of industry and familiarity with the subject is inscribed to Prof. Billroth, who, twenty-five years ago, was the first to attempt to remove goitres by operation, and who has since operated upon more than 230 cases.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

ANTISEPTIK UND TREPANATION. Von Dr. K. SEYDEL, Privat-docent, etc., an der Universität München. Munich, 1886, Heinrich Muller. (New York, G. E. Stechert).

ANTISEPTIC PRACTICE AND TREPHINING. By Dr. K. SEYDEL.

This valuable book, 176 pages large octavo, is the outcome of the recent great advances in the surgery of the brain due to the exercise of the antiseptic method. The object of the author has evidently been to set forth the immense influence for good that antiseptics have had upon the operation of trephining, as well as to consider the present indications for interference in disorders and injuries of the brain.

The author begins with a very complete historical review of the operation of trephining from antiquity to the present time, including the period of development after the introduction of the antiseptic system into surgery. In succeeding chapters he treats of trephining for simple and for compound injuries to the skull, for retention of pus (Pott), for abscess of the brain, for cranial osteitis, for neoplasms, and for epilepsy, etc. In each of these chapters statistics are given a tabulated review of all the cases known to the author, which were operated upon with antiseptic precautions. By comparing the statistical figures gotten from these tables with the statistics of pre-antiseptic times collated by Bluhm, and with the statistics of cases treated by conservative methods, as given by Cramer and Weismann, the author is enabled to deduct not only that the operation of trephining is not at all dangerous when performed with antiseptic precautions, but that it is much more frequently indicated, than it is at present performed.

Very little is said as to technical details of the operation, most recent publications in Germany having treated sufficiently fully of this subject.

The work throughout bears evidence of the most careful study and research, and contains references to all the important works having appeared up to the time of its publication, excepting, however, the American articles appearing in the fall of 1885.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL AND PRACTITIONER'S INDEX. A work of reference for medical practitioners. Edited by PERCY WILDE, M.D. Bristol: John Wright & Co. London: Hamilton, Adams & Co. New York: George Putnam's Sons. 1887. Pp. 550, 8vo.

This work endeavors to provide a summary of the views expressed during the past year "by the leading European and American physicians and surgeons." The difficulties of such a task are of course very serious; but we are bound to say, after a careful examination of the book, that the editor and his eleven collaborators have performed their duties with great ability, and that the "Medical Annual" will be found exceedingly useful by anyone who possesses it. Four hundred and eighteen pages are devoted to "a dictionary of new treatment in medicine and surgery." This deals with its subjects in alphabetical order; and "hernia" may be noted as an example. Among the things noticed in this article are Dr. Wood's opinion on the etiology of hernia and his monograph on their radical cure; Dr. McEwen's new and original operation recently described in our own columns, Schmidt's paper, (*Arch. f. klin. chirurg.*, 1885) on "Goyrand's" and "Kroenlein's" herniæ, Square's case of hernia into the foramen of Winslow, Chiene on irreducible and umbilical herniæ, Clement Lucas's paper on the latter, Dr. Walter Rivington's contribution to the *Lancet* of October 24, and several minor points.

Among other contents of the "Medical Annual" are a list of medical books of the year, a drug and dose index which gives the doses of newest and latest fashions in drugs, and a note-book with pages for "books and instruments lent." At the top of this is the following original advice: "When lending a book fix a date for its return, write this date after the name of the book and borrower below. If it is not returned at the proper time, make a copy of the entry on a post card and send it to the delinquent."

The work is well printed and conveniently bound.

C. B. KEETLEY.