dealt with but briefly. An appendix is added, in which he gives the bibliography of his own writings, particularly those which have been referred to in the text.

This is a book of over a thousand pages. It does the author and publishers great credit. It is dedicated to the first of American genito-urinary surgeons, Fessenden N. Otis, many of whose teachings the author wisely perpetuates.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.

A TEXT-BOOK ON PRACTICAL OBSTETRICS. By EGBERT H. GRANDIN, M.D. With the Collaboration of GEORGE W. JARMAN, M.D. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Illustrated; 8vo. Pages xiv-461. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company.

So many excellent works on obstetrics have appeared in the last decade that the need for still another volume on this subject may be fairly considered a matter of doubt. That this is the second edition would, however, indicate that some have found it useful.

The authors presuppose a knowledge of anatomy, physiology, embryology, and even of pathology. That the first two may be taken for granted is reasonable; but with the embryotic teaching accorded to the others, even in our most advanced medical schools, and with the entire absence of such instruction in the college days of most active practitioners, the omission of the latter topics is a doubtful advantage. Pregnancy, Labor, The Puerperal State, and Obstetric Surgery are the four chief divisions of the book.

The observations and directions for guidance during pregnancy are especially good, and the information given as to palpation and auscultation, illustrated by excellent photographs, are also of especial merit. Since L. O. A. is the standard type of nomenclature at the present time, and is adopted by the authors themselves, it should be adhered to throughout, instead of using the inverted order of M. I. A. and S. I. A., which follow.

In the description of the mechanism of labor, the text is supplemented by a beautiful series of photographs of the actual child in utero in each of the various positions, and the result is by far the best explanation of this little understood subject that is to be found in American text-books.

Up to the chapter devoted to the management of normal labor there is much to commend and little to criticize; unfortunately, from this point onward the reverse is the case. The illustrations in this chapter are, many of them, for the purpose of placing in evidence the likeness of the various doctors concerned, for they do little else, and the ones devoted to catheterization and to the dressing of the cord serve no other purpose. It is to be hoped that no one having occasion to apply an abdominal binder will think of the one pictured in this book as a worthy model to follow; a more slipshod application it would be hard to find. A draw-sheet is not merely a "folded pad on which the patient lies," nor is any physician obliged to do without a donche-pan, even in the homes of the very poor, unless he so desires. To state that obstetric anesthesia involves *no* risk is a dangerous and unsound doctrine to teach; nor is it good sense to advocate the insertion of the entire hand into the vagina for the mere purpose of diagnosis; such a procedure is apt to do damage and is quite unnecessary.

Few surgeons would admit that a saline infusion can only be given when elaborate apparatus is at hand; a canula can always be carried, and a clean fountain syringe is nearly always available. Finally, if, as is shown in the illustrations of an alleged practical management of a case of normal labor, it is necessary to have five able-bodied men—very able-bodied, indeed, as regards two of them—assist in the expression of the placenta and in the ligation of the cord, the private practitioner would do well to give up medicine as a profession and turn his attention to something that he can do well alone.

The last portion of the volume is devoted to obstetric surgery. Many criticisms could be made were it worth while; but let it suffice to say that these chapters are not representative of the best obstetrics of the day, and most of the subjects treated can be found better described in other works.

JOHN TELLER FULTON.