

the fact that the author, in addition to his extensive experience, his skill as an operator, and his habits of minute and painstaking observation, has the ability to express his knowledge in such a way that the book will, without doubt, take rank as a classic in this domain of surgery.

LECTURES ON SURGERY. By DAVID W. CHEEVER, A.B., M.D., Professor of Surgery, Emeritus, in the Medical School of Harvard University. 8vo, 591 pp. Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1894.

These interesting and instructive lectures were published from time to time during the past winter in the *Boston Medical Journal*, and are now collected and republished in book form. The subjects treated are limited in number, and the reader is told in the preface that the author's aim is not to present a complete treatise on surgery, for "this is only a portion of a surgical course which includes other teachers and varied departments."

The scope of the work is best indicated by the principal lecture-headings, which are as follows: anæsthetics, gunshot wounds, fractures, dislocations, frost-bite, and burns, and injuries to blood-vessels, head, spine, face, throat, and abdomen.

From the first the reader is impressed by the conservative and yet impartial manner in which Dr. Cheever presents the subjects to his class. Pope's maxim—

"Be not the first by whom the new is tried,  
Nor yet the last to cast the old aside"—

could be placed at the beginning of the volume as an accurate index of the author's teaching and practice.

In the chapter first mentioned all of the principal forms of local and of general anæsthetics are described and given a fair hearing. The advantages and disadvantages of each are given, as well as the essentials for their safe administration. The mooted question of ether *vs.* chloroform is especially well argued, and, while the writer prefers ether for most purposes, chloroform is not submitted to the sweeping condemnation which seems to be thought necessary by many American surgeons.

The subject of gun-shot wounds is treated more fully than is usual in this particular era. "Although we are not in a time of war, yet they are very common in civil life." The civilian surgeons who accuse their military colleagues of performing needless amputations are met with the statement "that the person who looks at the problem from the side of civil life does not understand it. Probably too few rather than too many amputations are performed in time of war." A third of the volume is devoted to the allied subjects of fractures and dislocations.

In view of the fact that Dr. Cheever is one of the very few surgeons who has ever performed œsophagotomy more than once or twice, the lecture devoted to the subject of foreign bodies in the throat is of especial value. In the description of the operation for the removal of these, and, indeed, throughout the entire book, many practical details are accurately described which are too often left to the imagination of the reader who attempts to follow prescribed directions in many text-books.

To the members of the thirty-three medical classes to whom these lectures are inscribed, and who are fortunate enough to have heard them as well as to read them, the book must have a personal value apart from the amount of information that it contains. Thanks to the accurate report of the medical stenographer, Dr. Edwin H. Allen, the conversational style and personal characteristics of the author are reproduced with fidelity. With the text as a guide to their fancy, Harvard graduates, at least, can readily imagine themselves once more within the amphitheatre receiving instruction from the lips of their teacher, guide, and friend.

SURGERY. A Manual for Students and Practitioners. By BERN B. GALLAUDET, M.D. and CHARLES N. DIXON-JONES, B.S., M.D. THE STUDENTS' QUIZ SERIES. Series edited by BERN B. GALLAUDET, M.D. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co.

This volume of the Students' Quiz Series has as one of its authors the editor of the entire series. Dr. Gallaudet is especially