peutical application of remedies, generally very complete, usually well selected, very infrequently containing obsolete material, occasionally somewhat diffuse, but on the whole well digested. In this department the journals and year-hooks have been extensively read. We wish that the author had more freely given us his personal experiences at many points in the book. As it stands free from many, and to the practitioner needless, details, it offers to him a fair presentation of modern knowledge, not unduly enthusiastic as to the clinical results to be obtained from this or that remedy, nor yet pessimistic as are frequently the utterances of many practical physicians. We regard the work as useful to the practitioner who wishes to refresh and enlarge his knowledge, and from which he can obtain many new ideas. The book is readable and one that will win a place for itself in the esteem of the profession.

R. W. W.

TRAVAUX D'ÉLECTROTHÉRAPIE GYNÉCOLOGIQUE. Par le DOCTEUR G. APOSTOLI, Vice Président de la Société Française d'Électrothérapie, etc. Paris, 1894.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GYNÆCOLOGICAL ELECTROTHERAPY. By DR. G. APOSTOLI.

In this work Apostoli has collected the contributions to gynæcological electrotherapy which have appeared in the various American and foreign journals during the past eight years. There is nothing new in this compilation to those who have followed the development of the subject during the period in question. It is simply a collection in a single language of material which has been already published in the French or in some other language. There are some who cannot conscientiously regard the subject with the same degree of ardor and hopefulness which was experienced a few years ago; indeed, we may go further, and say there are few who have the same confidence in this form of therapy which they once had. Even the most sanguine enthusiasts speak with less assurance of the therapeutic effects of electricity as applied to pelvic and abdominal disease than they did. What is the cause of this? Partly that the claims as to the utility of electrical treatment were too extravagant; partly that the armamentarium, to be at all efficient, is too costly and complicated ever to be brought into general use; partly that such improvements in surgical technique have been developed that radical results are possible with far less risk to life than formerly, and with far less outlay of time, if not of money, on the part of the patient.

We have looked through this compilation with considerable care, and have read many of the clinical histories of which the work is largely composed. Some of the statements (those of the Keiths, for example) we believe absolutely truthful and credible. They have narrated cases in which fibroid tumors were entirely and permanently cured by electrotherapy. There are few who have used this means of treatment who have had a similarly fortunate experience. It matters little whether they be told that they have used the agent improperly or not; they have done the best they could and have failed, and the agent is, naturally enough, discredited in their eyes. Now, this does not imply that elec-

tricity is useless in pelvic disease, but simply that it cannot supersede surgical measures, for the reason that it is uncertain as to the effects produced. It is distinctly inferior to surgery in many instances in which both means have been tried. It would be a great boon to humanity if a measure involving no risk to life, painless in application, and certain, or nearly certain, to bring relief for the trouble for which it was employed, could be found; but electricity has not as yet answered those conditions, though it has been asserted it would. A very useful field is, however, open to electricity in the treatment of the minor forms of pelvic disease and in the palliative and preparatory treatment, in not a few instances, of the more aggravated forms; but Apostoli himself concedes, with greater frankness than some of his followers, that its scope is more circumscribed than he was in the habit of admitting a few years ago. We have no sympathy with those who decry electricity as useless or invariably harmful. Such assertions usually come from those who are prejudiced against it, and who are either without experience in its use or so biased that careful observation of its effects *pro* and *con* would hardly be possible.

We shall welcome from Apostoli, or any other source, any information and experience which will demonstrate conclusively that it has latent virtues which have not yet been discovered; but until then we can see no possibility of its holding any position but a subordinate one to surgery.

A. F. C.

ATLAS OF ELECTRIC CYSTOSCOPY. By DR. EMIL BURCKHARDT, of Basel, and E. HURRY FENWICK, F.R.C.S. Eng. London: J. & A. Churchill.

CYSTOSCOPY has in reality scarcely yet attained to its puberty, as the instrument of Nitze and Leiter was presented to the Vienna Society of Physicians but fourteen years ago. In view of its tender years, as compared with the advanced age of the sounding process, it seems scarcely proper to expect it to conjure marvels, and eminently improper to condemn it because it does not do so. There can be no question that in the hands of an expert the cystoscope is an instrument of great value; that it has already produced a revolution in vesical pathology; and that by its aid we are often enabled to diagnosticate obscure disorders, to contradict preconceived opinions as to the nature of diseases, to form a positive prognosis, and to outline a rational treatment. It is quite true that an examination, to afford information, must be made with a degree of dexterity to attain which requires long and patient practice; in other words, must be made by an expert or specialist. The same fact is, however, true of examinations of the eyes by the ophthalmoscope and of the larynx by the laryngoscope, and the difficulty of the procedure does not destroy the claims of the process to be a legitimate and often essential diagnostic method.

The plates are masterpieces of art, and will serve a valuable purpose as guides for study and comparison. The plate of renal hæmaturia shows the ureteral orifice of the diseased side vomiting blood as a volcano throws up lava. Cystitis is exhibited in all its forms. Vesical tuberculosis, tumors, calculi, foreign bodies, fistulae, and ulcers are graphically portrayed.

This book will prove eminently useful, in fact invaluable, to a genito-