remember how many times we are called to perform intubation because the patients are too far gone for tracheotomy, too young, or because the cases are of a too malignant nature to sanction a cutting operation. It must be remembered that nine-tenths of all these cases are in consultation with other doctors, and we are called only as a last resort when all other measures have failed, and when it is evident that death must soon ensue. Many of these cases are moribund, unconscious and well nigh hopeless, others are young, and others again of a malignant nature, so that the favorable cases are few and far between; and yet it is said that the operation is performed early. Such a statement is a reflection not only upon the operator but upon the attending physicians as well.

To illustrate the condition of many of these patients, allow me to mention a few cases.

November 27.—I was called by Dr. O'Malley to see a little girl of 7 years suffering from semi-malignant diphtheria; nasal, pharyngeal and laryngeal. The parents at first objected to the operation, and emetics were repeatedly given in addition to other medication; these failing to give relief, and it being perfectly evident to the parents that the child was surely strangling, consent was given. The doctor acknowledged that the case was too unfavorable for tracheotomy. The child wore the tube four days and recovered completely.

November 30.—I was called by Drs. Steele and Jacques to perform the operation upon a baby 18 months old, "too young for tracheotomy." *Patient recovered.*

December 3.—I was called by Dr. G. W. Webster to operate upon a little girl 4 years old, with semi-malignant diphtheria with invasion of the larynx. The patient was surely dying and "too unfavorable for tracheotomy." The child wore the tube five days and recovered.

January 1.—I was called by Dr. Jacques. Patient 8 years old, moribund, unconscious, limp, and pulseless at the wrist. The tube was introduced without resistance and artificial respiration performed. The patient revived and fully recovered. The doctor stated the child would have been dead in ten minutes.

January 5.—Through the courtesy of Dr. A. L. Thomas, I was called to operate upon a baby 18 months old and moribund, "too young and too unfavorable for tracheotomy." Patient revived, returned to consciousness, but died two days later.

January 10.—Through the courtesy of Dr. Parsons, operated upon a baby 17 months old; moribund at the time of operating. Patient died twelve hours later.

January 18.—Through the courtesy of Dr. Miller, operated upon a baby fifteen months old, "too young for tracheotomy." Patient recovered.

March 12.—I was called by Dr. Kippax to operate upon a boy 7 years old, Drs. Guerin and Jacques being present. The patient was unconscious, comatose and actually dying, but revived and fully recovered.

March 14.—Through the courtesy of Dr. Simons operated upon a patient 5 years old, with malignant diphtheria of the nasal cavities, pharynx and larynx. Patient died from asthenia.

April 8.—Through the courtesy of Drs. Gatchell and Mitchel operated upon a little girl 8 years old, suffering from malignant diphtheria with invasion of the larynx. The patient was moribund, extremities cold, and clammy and pulseless. The patient fully revived, but died the next day from the malignancy of the disease.

April 24.—I was called to see a boy 4 years old a patient of Dr. Marks' who was present at the operation. The boy was upon the point of death from diphtheritic laryngeal stenosis. The child was unconscious, the lips were of a dark purple, almost black, the pulse could not be detected at the wrist, and the child was certainly dying. When the patient had reached this deplorable condition I was hastily summoned, and found the attendants hovering over the child waiting for the last gasp to prove that life was extinct. The operation was performed and artificial respiration resorted to before consciousness was restored. The child fully revived, but died as a result of the hypostatic congestion of the lungs. These are only a few cases among *many* of like nature, but a sufficient number to prove, I hope, that the operation is not performed early or unnecessarily. Yours respectfully,

F. E. WAXHAM, M.D.

240 Wabash Avenue.

Climatic Influence in Phthisis.

Dear Sir:—In a recent editorial (page 523) THE JOURNAL called attention to the importance of "knowledge concerning the elements that give special character to climate and their influence on the functions of the human body" . . . knowledge "essential" . . . to "every practitioner, who would do justice to those who depend upon him for advice." And yet, as indicated in the editorial, the records of *facts* necessary to give us such knowledge are not usually to be had; we usually obtain only the *opinions* of those who write on this subject, based upon experience which may be valuable, but which opinions, after all, do not greatly advance the science of climatological etiology. It was to supply such records of facts, the absence of which was deplored in the editorial just referred to and in the article by Dr. Denison mentioned therein, that the paper which followed Dr. Denison's at the International Medical Congress, was prepared and

read; I refer to the article entitled, "Relations of Certain Meteorological Conditions to Diseases of the Lungs and Air-passages as shown by Statistical and other evidence." The statistics included tens of thousands of weekly reports of sickness, and records of hundreds of thousands of deaths from phthisis and from disease of the air-passages, in this country and in other countries. These statistics were studied in connection with statistics of the meteorological conditions, and were found to be harmonious; and the writer considered it proved "that the rise and fall of [phthisis and] the diseases of the air-passages are controlled by the atmospheric temperature, and that this is accomplished mainly through the quantity of vapor of water abstracted from the air passages." In the discussion which followed these papers, the writer expressed the opinion that this was a general law,—that if there could be obtained records of phthisis and meteorological conditions in Colorado their relations would be found to be the same as has been found to be true elsewhere, wherever the subject has been studied. If any one doubts this generalization, what is needed is that the facts be recorded, in each locality respecting which there may be doubt, and that these records of facts be brought forward, that they may be studied by those of us who are interested in the subject. I wish most emphatically to indorse the plea in the article by Dr. Denison and in the editorial, for the bringing forward of *facts*, accurately stated by weight, measure or number so that they may be available for building up the science of tiology or of climatological therapeutics.

By this mail I send you a copy of the paper containing the mortuary, morbidity and meteorological statistics which I have mentioned.

Very respectfully, HENRY B. BAKER.
Lansing, Mich., April 19, 1889.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ELECTRICITY IN THE DISEASES OF WOMEN, with Special Reference to the Application of Strong Currents. By G. BETTON MASSEY, M.D., Physician to the Nervous Department of Howard Hospital; late Electro-Therapist to the Philadelphia Orthopædic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases, etc. 8vo, pp. viii, 210. Philadelphia and London: 1889.

Taken as a whole the work done by Dr. Massey in his "Electricity in the Diseases of Women," is very satisfactory, and helps to fill a deeply-felt need of the practitioner, viz: a modern scientific work on electricity. The rapid development and recent scientific demonstrations of this subject have rendered former authorities almost absolute,

and as yet comparatively nothing has arisen to take their place.

While Dr. Massey's book covers but a limited portion of this vast subject, it still is in most respects, scientific and will prove of assistance to the practitioner who is desirous of employing electricity as a therapeutic agent.

But little space is occupied by the consideration of the physics of electricity proper, but the detailed experiments given in chapters III and IV are well conceived, and will do much toward clearing up this intricate subject to the minds of the uninitiated, and they should be thoroughly mastered by the practitioner who is ambitious to employ electricity intelligently. The remainder of the book is mainly a compilation from articles which have appeared from time to time in various medical journals during the past three years, and in most respects lacks originality save in the detail of cases.

Many of the more ordinary difficulties met with by the gynæcologist, such as menorrhagia, sub-involution, hyperplasia, pelvic induration, pelvic pain—including obstructive and nervous dysmenorrhœa—uterine stenosis, intermenstrual neuralgia, uterine displacements, amenorrhœa and hydrosalpinx, all are treated by the electrical means indicated, and with results which coincide with those reported by the majority of operators employing similar methods.

By far the greater portion of the book is devoted to a description of Apostoli's work. In chapter V. is considered the intra-uterine galvanochemical cauterization (Apostoli's operation), as employed in the treatment of fibroid tumors and chronic metritis. The different steps of the operation are clearly described, and the electrodes and appliances illustrated. It is to be regretted in this connection that the author recognizes no form of intra-uterine flexible electrodes other than the stiff platinum sound, because in consequence a greater proportion of cases of fibroid tumors with tortuous canals must submit to the more dangerous operation of galvano-puncture. This subject naturally forms the most important portion of the book, and is worthy the time devoted to it.

A chapter is devoted to the consideration of Extra-Uterine Pregnancy, electrically treated, and one to "Contra-indications and Limitation to the use of Strong Currents."

To the conservative practitioner this book offers a safe and effectual method of treatment for many difficulties which have in the past been a serious perplexity to him, while to the unscrupulous operator it should come as a grave reproach for the severe measures so often unnecessarily and unjustifiably employed, and it is to be hoped that through its influence some little may be accomplished toward righting this great wrong.

F. H. M.