have all been waiting? We think not; but we have no great school to represent. We cannot demand originality when we have no source of originality; no great central school or system that produces an exponent. As a nation of thinkers and literary workers, we are a divided people. We are too active, too independent in our egotism for any one man or class of men to so group principles and facts as to found a school of opinions and practice. But there is no need of this. Science is cosmopolitan, not local. Broad then, in this sense, is Dr. Lusk's book; and we must say that he has succeeded fairly well.

The volume is illustrated richly and in a superior manner, and its make-up is creditable to the publishers.

E. V. de W.

ART. XXVII.—*A System of Surgery, Theoretical and Practical. In Treatises by Various Authors.* Edited by T. HOLMES, M.A., Cantab. First American, from Second English Edition, thoroughly revised and much enlarged. By JOHN H. PACKARD, A.M., M.D., assisted by a large corps of the most eminent American surgeons. In three volumes. Vol. II., pp. 1063. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1881.

THE second volume of *Holmes's Surgery* opens with articles on Diseases of the Eye and Ear. We presume these are a necessary part of comprehensive works, such as a "system" of surgery is intended to be. The diseases of which they treat have become so completely the property of specialists, that it would seem no more than proper to diminish very considerably the space which they occupy in the present work, and confine their scope to the description of those diseases with which it is necessary for the general surgeon to be familiar.

Mr. Durham's article on diseases of the nose is edited by Dr. J. Solis Cohen. It contains a great deal of interesting material, but we cannot avoid expressing the feeling that the opportunity which exists in this special field of surgery for a "first-class" article, such as might have been written by an experienced hospital surgeon, has not been seized. Deviation of the septum is an interesting topic which hardly receives adequate attention, but the advice given to abstain from operation we think good; none of the numerous operations which have been proposed for its relief have commended themselves to our judgment. There is the disagreeable possibility of transforming a discomfort into a discordant deformity by producing a slight nasal tone to the speech. Patients are chiefly disturbed by the fear that there may be a polypus, or that the distortion of the nose will become greater. The mind being set at ease on these points, they are usually content to leave matters as they are. The treatment of nasal polypi is in keeping with modern views; and the account of naso-pharyngeal polypi is fair, but a great deal remains to be said about the various operations for their removal. Langenbeck's admirable osteoplastic resection of the upper jaw, by which it is swung over on to the opposite cheek, and the numerous ramifications of their truly polypoid structure completely exposed, is not mentioned, nor does the work of American surgeons, as Cheever and others, receive notice.

Diseases of the Tongue, by Holmes-Coote, is ably revised by Dr. Charles McBurney, to whom we are indebted for many odd bits of information concerning this organ, such as elephantiasis, tubercle, and tumours other than cystic, of which there appears to be quite a variety. Of the tuberculous ulcer, he says: "Early excision of the diseased part is doubtless the best treatment. The wound left heals rapidly, and though the patient cannot be expected to overcome the general diathesis, yet he may, through operation, be spared much pain, and life may be prolonged." The different varieties of sublingual cysts are carefully unravelled by the editor. The specific affections are also given clearly in a few comprehensive sentences, and the closing remarks on operations upon the organs are among the best we know. The method of Professor Kocher, of Berne, of removing portions of the tongue, particularly in cancer, reads well. It consists in taking a triangular flap from the side of the neck, the base being upon the edge of the jaw, and throwing it up on to the cheek: all glands are removed, large vessels tied, and the mouth opened into under the edge of the jaw. Tracheotomy is recommended for most operations upon the tongue; it greatly facilitates the operation, but it should not be forgotten that patients not unfrequently succumb to acute lung inflammations just at the moment when the dangers attending the original disease seem to have been successfully overcome.

Part II. of this volume, devoted to diseases of the circulatory system, opens with a chapter on diseases of the veins by Callender, followed by articles on diseases of arteries by Moore, and aneurism by Holmes, all of which are revised by Dr. L. A. Stimson. Under the treatment of aneurism there are some interesting notes on the use of Esmarch's bandage. The rules for operative treatment are not so clearly laid down as we should wish to see them. The position of the "old operation," as it is termed, or cutting into the sac and tying both ends of the artery, is not given that prominence which it deserves in connection with the only variety of aneurisms to which it is adapted, namely, those of traumatic origin. The methods of treating the varieties of spontaneous aneurism which come under the care of the surgeon are now quite numerous. There is but little choice, however, in the traumatic variety; the Hunterian operation is frequently successful, but quite as frequently it fails to cure, and there is the possibility of being obliged subsequently to attack a suppurating sac. There is also quite a probability that the pulsations may not be permanently relieved. The dangers of a more radical operation are now greatly diminished by antiseptic safeguards, and although Dr. Keyes's case of varicose aneurism, in which this method was employed, terminated fatally, we are inclined to think that he adopted the right course, which we have also recently pursued successfully in a large femoral aneurism of the same variety. Considerable space is given to cirroid aneurism; but one important fact in regard to this variety does not appear to have been recognized, and one also that usually escapes notice, namely, the direction of the current of blood in the large vessels which are found radiating from the tumour. These are supposed to be afferent vessels, and the deception is natural when some well-known artery is among the number, like the temporal or occipital; in reality, however, the current is reversed. There is little use in attempting to attack the disease by tying these vessels, and the advice given to direct treatment to the central tumour is clearly proper. We take this opportunity to enter our protest against the modern rendering of the good old-fashioned word *ligature*; "*ligation*," now

largely adopted by American writers, has always seemed to us an unnecessary and somewhat pedantic innovation. We venture to say that it cannot be found anywhere in the original text.

The chapter on diseases of the absorbent system is entirely original, and appears to be a reproduction of the very valuable paper on that subject by Dr. Samuel C. Busey, with which many surgeons and pathologists are already familiar.

The description of apparatus for congenital cleft palate, by Dr. Kingsley, forms an interesting appendix to the article on disease of the teeth. Suersen, of Berlin, has given an impetus to this mode of treatment of the deformity, and the work of our American dentists is so excellent that we are inclined to the opinion that the mechanical treatment will eventually supersede operative measures entirely. Persons afflicted with this malformation may be conveniently divided into the two classes suggested by an eminent surgeon as a basis of classification in club-foot: those that are able to pay and those that are unable to pay. The latter will continue to frequent the hospitals, and will be well satisfied with the improvement bestowed upon them by staphylorrhaphy, but will be unable to acquire that perfection of speech which the more fortunate fellow-sufferers attain with the obturator.

Under diseases of the intestines, intestinal obstructions are treated of at length, but we do not find mention of the valuable work of Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, which would have probably been added in an English revision of the subject. His method, which consists mainly in etherization and manipulation of the abdominal contents, has always seemed to us a very plausible, and, we might appropriately add, harmless way of treating this serious affection. In a note to Mr. Henry Smith's article on diseases of the rectum, we notice the statement of Dr. Packard that the ligature and écraseur are considered by American surgeons the best means of dealing with internal hemorrhoidal tumours. Our own experience would not support this view, the results of the clamp and cautery, combined with dilatation of the sphincter, appearing more favourable. This affection suffers generally from a too vigorous surgical treatment. Dilatation alone will often remedy the lighter forms of the disease, but care must be taken not to over-distend the muscle, lest a slight tendency to incontinence may result. In using the cautery also a few superficial applications will accomplish all that is needed, even in the severe forms of the affection.

Colotomy is an operation which is not performed in this country so frequently as in England; possibly there may not be the same necessity for resorting to it; the results are satisfactory, and the reviser justly recommends its use. Extirpation of the cancerous rectum has also been much neglected in the United States, and the papers referred to by Dr. Packard are among the valuable recent contributions to this subject. Our knowledge of hernia has altered but little within ten years, and Dr. Packard therefore finds but little to add to the somewhat elaborate treatise of Mr. Birkett. He wisely remarks: "In the United States a good many operations have been performed by different surgeons for the radical cure of hernia; but it would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain anything like accurate statistics upon the subject, and especially as to results." For contributions to the treatment of irreducible hernia the editor does not appear to have made a careful revision of home literature. Of Mr. Birkett's work it may be said that, like most other articles on hernia, there appears to be a lack of system in "floating" the subject, which is possibly

due to the want of uniformity in English writings in methods of arrangement, and to the enormous amount of literature with which the author of an article on hernia is confronted at the very beginning of his task.

Part IV. is devoted to diseases of the genito-urinary organs. Sir Henry Thompson is the author of that portion which treats of the urinary organs; to Dr. Poland is assigned urinary calculi and lithotomy, lithotritry being treated separately by Mr. Hawkins. All of these articles have been placed under the revision of Dr. Keyes.

This is a department of surgery, in all portions of which American surgeons have achieved the right to express an authoritative opinion, and in more than one they may justly claim to have earned a position unequalled by other countries; but it is to the treatment of vesical calculus that one naturally turns first to see what has been said. Dr. Bigelow's method is discussed in a separate chapter, under the title *Rapid Lithotritry with Evacuation*, Dr. Keyes remarking that the term *litholapaxy* has not been generally accepted. It may be well to give here the reasons for the adoption of this name, which do not appear to have been understood. It occasionally happens that the bladder is found to contain a number of small calculi, all of which, though many may be of no inconsiderable size, will pass through the straight tubes without the aid of the lithotrite, in one case over thirty having been removed in this way. It is obvious that lithotritry is a name which cannot be applied to such an operation, and the invention of a new term to cover these cases became a necessity. The general application to all cases in which the Bigelow method is employed seems to be justified, not only on the ground of simplicity, but also for emphasizing the complete novelty of the operation. The lithotrite, represented as Dr. Bigelow's, is not the one he now uses, an important change having been made in the shape of the tip of the female blade. His evacuator has also recently undergone several modifications.

That wonderfully versatile writer, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, is the author of the final chapter on the *Surgical Diseases of Women*, of which Dr. Skene has undertaken the revision; and here also we find that American surgery stands pre-eminent. We refer more particularly to the management of uterine fibroids, ruptured perineum and laceration of the cervix uteri, in which our gynecologists have achieved deserved distinction. The precise position which the latter operation will eventually take has, perhaps, not yet been fully determined. Like all new operations, it has probably been employed more frequently than eventually will be found necessary, but that it is a means of permanent relief, when "local treatment" has failed in a no small number of cases, will, we think, be generally conceded. The few pages given to ovariectomy seem hardly adequate to the great importance of the subject and the prestige which the triumphs of Wells and others have given to this operation. We presume lack of space has prevented the reviser from making any considerable or important additions.

We can but renew the praise, mentioned in the notice of the first volume, of the manner in which the publishers have done their work.

J. C. W.