

ASEPSIS AND ANTISEPSIS. By A. MAZET (Lyon). Paris, J. B. Bailliere et fils, 1888.

The author, in a brochure of 92 pages, deals with the experiences of Tripier, in the old and strongly infected Hotel-Dieu at Lyons, in aseptic and antiseptic manipulation during the last six years. By asepsis is to be understood the complete sterilization of any substance or fluid; antiseptis is synonymous with the destruction of bacteria (microbicide or germicide). It is asserted that the only means of effectually securing sterilization is the use of heat. Even boiled water is not strictly germless, but a temperature of from 115-120° C. will destroy the last spore. Disinfection of the skin of the patient and the surgeon's hands, and the immediate coverings to the wound if the latter is already infected is accomplished by the usual antiseptic agents. But instruments, drains, suture and ligature material, the pieces of dressing, and water for irrigation of the wound can only be effectually sterilized by means of hot water. Sponges are replaced by cotton tampons wrapped with gauze.

For sterilizing dressing materials, the gas stove of Chamberland is used. Instruments are sterilized in a hot air bath. Water is heated in a condenser under pressure, after having been passed through a Chamberland's filter, to a temperature of 120° C. and taken from the same as needed for use.

Tripier has used the above methods with the greatest possible satisfaction. Its applicability to the uses of large hospitals, and in them its simplicity are alike undeniable. For use in small hospitals or in private practice, the necessity for a special sterilizing condenser, etc., renders the system open to the objection of being complicated. Tripier's observation that antiseptis without asepsis is "only a bait, which may lead to cruel delusions" is a trite one.

GEORGE R. FOWLER.

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-Therapeutist to the Philadelphia Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases, etc. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis, publisher, 1889. 12 mo, pp. 210.

The application of electricity to gynecological work is so recent an innovation that a comprehensive treatise on the subject could hardly be produced at the present time. That his work should be considered