REVIEWS.

UTERINE TUMORS, THEIR PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT. By W. ROGER WILLIAMS, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. London, Paris and Madrid: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1901.

THIS book, which is quite up to the high standard of the author's previous works, is perhaps the best monograph on the subject which has yet appeared. It is truly a philosophical treatise, and the object has been the generalization and reduction into order of the masses of chaotic facts which may be found scattered through medical literature on the subjects of the pathology and treatment of uterine tumors.

The origin of uterine tumors is shown to be more closely associated with embryology and the aberrant elements, or so-called "rests," than with bacteriology; at the same time, the complications which arise as a result of bacterial influences are admitted. Uterine fibroids are properly termed "myomata," and there are several excellent chapters on their pathogenesis, morphology, biology, and complications.

The question as to whether benign tumors are peculiarly apt to become malignant is settled in the negative, and while it is admitted that myomata and malignant disease are sometimes concomitant in the uterus, it is pointed out that in such cases the two neoplasms are generally quite separate and independent, and that myomata are far less liable to originate cancer than are the glandular elements and embryonic remnants or "rests" in the uterus itself.

The chapters on the operative treatment of myomata and cancer are clear and reflect the best teaching of the day. Preference is given to the abdominal route, whenever practicable, in both classes of cases. The extra-peritoneal treatment of the cervical stump in the abdominal wound after supravaginal amputation is admitted to be obsolescent if not yet obsolete in conservative England.

Hysteromyomectomy with intra- or rather subperitoneal treatment of the stump, which should always be associated with the name of Bear, is credited to Schroeder, and in the chapter on the operative treatment of cancer no mention is made of combined vaginal and abdominal hysterectomy, an operation which is of distinct advantage in many cases.

The chapters on morphology and the general pathology of uterine cancer are most interesting and instructive. The author in 160 personal consecutive cases of cancer of the uterus found only 4 of the corpus, or 1 in 40; but he points out that these cases were not specially selected for their operative suitability. He believes that 90 per cent. of all uterine cancers are of the cylinder-celled (mucosal or glandular) variety, which he says should be regarded as the typical form for this organ. He points out that in this conclusion he differs from Cullen, who out of 141 cancers of the lower part of the uterus found that 123 were of the squamous and only 18 of the glandular type, and he says

that such a result could only be arrived at by interpreting the histological appearances differently to what he has done, and he believes that Cullen's interpretation is erroneous. The book contains 58 engravings which fairly well illustrate the text. J. B. S.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGICAL HISTOLOGY. By HARVEY R. GAYLORD, M.D., Professor of Surgical Pathology in the University of Buffalo, etc., and LUDWIG ASCHOFF, M.D., Professor and First Assistant in the Pathological Institute of the University of Göttingen. With an Introductory Note, by WILLIAM H. WELCH, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the Johns Hopkins University. Illustrated with 81 engravings in the text and 40 full-page plates. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co.

THE plan of this work is substantially that of a laboratory guide. In the first chapter we find directions for the preparation and examination of tissue, both fresh and hardened. The methods given are well selected, and include practically all of the important special stains now in use, as well as the standard stains generally used in laboratories. The directions are clear and full. The second and largest part is devoted to special pathological anatomy, the classification being based on organs, including the mucous membranes and the serous membranes—with tumors and blood. The laboratory idea is still further suggested by summaries of normal histology preceding the descriptions of the alterations of each organ. The work does not, therefore, aim at a complete exposition of morbid histology, yet the authors have included a wide range, and the reader can usually find information on any point, while the descriptions are admirably clear and detailed. The plan followed involves the further risk of not impressing the student sufficiently with the principles of general pathological anatomy, a risk that has not been so successfully avoided, as in the case of tubercle. In this part of the book we find its chief novelty, perhaps even its *raison d'être*, in the numerous heliotype reproductions of photomicrographs. With very rare exceptions these are admirably chosen and perfectly reproduced, and form a noteworthy addition to medical illustration. They compare favorably with the more costly reproductions that have been used in special works, and show the practical possibility of something far better than the half-tones now so much used. Very few of the illustrations are actually poor, but the one showing typhoid bacilli with flagella cannot be otherwise described, and the other photographs of bacilli in the same plate do not exceed mediocrity. As a rule, the amplifications are well adapted, but the important picture of miliary tuberculosis of the lung (Fig. 4, Plate XIII.) might well have been more highly magnified. It would have been more satisfactory if the amplifications had been expressed in diameters rather than in general terms, as high, low, etc. Although such works as this have a very important place, they do not give one a belief in the absolute superiority of photographs over good drawings as aids to the study of histology. We think we have noticed a greater tendency to neglect the art of focusing among students who use text-books with photomicrographic illustrations. A single plane