DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ANSWER TO DR. R. W. SUTTON.

72 LAFAYETTE AVE., DETROIT MICH., }
November 18, 1884.

TO THE EDITOR.—*Dear Sir:* In your issue of 15th inst., Dr. R. S. Sutton invites me to recall a fatal case of ovariectomy in my practice which occurred at Lansing, Mich., in January last, and of which he claims to have in his possession a certificate of death. In reply I must absolutely decline any such invitation, and must say to Dr. Sutton that any such certificate is either a gross blunder or a wicked forgery. *The simple fact is that I have never in my life performed ovariectomy at Lansing nor upon a Lansing patient anywhere at any time.* In the face of Dr. R. S. Sutton's repeated assaults upon my reputation for truth and veracity, I hope that I may be allowed to say here that if anything could exceed the grotesqueness of that gentleman's frantic efforts to advertise himself and his abdominal hospital it is his unwavering interest in me and my sayings and doings.

As might be expected, these devoted attentions on his part have led me to make some slight notes of Dr. Sutton. While I think that I can candidly disclaim everything like wrath, malice and envy, at the same time I must confess that the results of my study of Dr. Sutton's peculiar idiosyncrasies have not been agreeable nor flattering to that gentleman. In fact, sir, there seems to me to be strong reasons for suspecting that your Pittsburgh correspondent will have to be classed with those unfortunates who are said to have "lost the chart and missed the reckoning of rationality." This is the most charitable explanation of his persistent efforts to involve me in unnecessary and unseemly strife.

One word more; within a few days I propose to place on record some further facts and figures relative to my own recent experiences with ovariectomies performed in public amphitheatres in presence of hundreds of students, and in "cottages by the way-side," from which I venture to hope that some considerable comfort and encouragement may be extracted by that large and honorable class of American surgeons, who do not hesitate to give the poor sufferer from ovarian disease the only possible chance which remains for her life, even although a special abdominal hospital and a *special abdominal operator* are beyond their and her reach, and even although they in their scientific modesty do not aspire to compare even their highest efforts with the tender mercies of "The Almighty," as Dr. Sutton audaciously did before the Obstetrical Section at Washington.

I am, etc., DONALD MACLEAN.

BOOK REVIEWS.

MANUAL OF CHEMISTRY. By W. SIMON, PH.D., M.D. Philadelphia: H. C. Lea's Son & Co.

This book is intended for medical and pharmaceu-

tical students, and seems to be up to the average of works compiled for the same purpose.

A novel feature of the book is found in the plates colored to represent the precipitates formed in various qualitative tests, and it is possible that these plates may be of use to students who have not the opportunity of doing laboratory work.

The questions at the end of each chapter might be in place in a grammar school text-book, but in a manual intended for colleges the propriety of appending them is much to be doubted.

A TREATISE ON PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE. By JOSEPH C. HUTCHINSON, M.D., LL.D. New York: Clark & Mayard. 1884. Cloth, illustrated, 319 pages.

This school text-book has all the faults common to that class of literature. Some of the illustrations are simply for embellishment, and the text is often faulty. Besides its minor errors it has one positive evil. The lists of questions at the foot of each page and end of each chapter tempt the teacher to rely on the text-book and the parrot-like memory of the pupil rather than on a clear explanation and demonstration of the subjects taught and the due appreciation of those subjects by the student's higher mental faculties.

SURGICAL DELUSIONS AND FOLLIES. By JOHN B. ROBERTS, A.M., M.D., Professor of Anatomy Philadelphia Polyclinic, Surgeon St. Mary's Hospital. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston. Pp. 56.

This is a clever address which the author delivered before the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. Without professing to go deep into scientific questions, he discusses here many minor superstitions and errors which cling about surgical practice, much in the spirit of the immortal author of "DON'T." It is doubtless true that in the routine of minor surgery more absurd and antique delusions are still in vogue than in most modern specialties. It is also true that some good physicians, who do only occasionally any surgical work, are the most hide-bound in their prejudices, and need a thorough shaking up before they will let go old notions and adapt their surgery to the present day. This little volume is both suggestive and profitable to all who look over its pages.

E. W. A.

THE EAR: ITS ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND DISEASES. By CHARLES H. BURNETT, A.M., M.D. Second edition, revised and re-written. Calif. 585 pages, 107 illustrations. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co.

The author, in the second edition, has evidently spared no pains both by careful compilation and original research, to bring the work fully up to date. The part on diseases and treatment is arranged under seven sections, considering first the examination of the patient, then the various diseases according to their anatomical location, and lastly a section on the methods of relief and education of deaf mutes and partially deaf children.

C. E. W.