It is satisfactory to find Pasteur referred to as the originator of the principles underlying surgical sterilization.

This text was written, perhaps, before the introduction of clean catgut into surgery, as German banjo and violin strings are recommended; but fortunately as the result of recent agitation catgut is now being prepared especially for surgical purposes, and a new era in the preparation of this important material has been entered upon.

The administration of sterile foods as a preliminary to stomach and intestinal operations is given all too little consideration in practice; and one of the strong features of this book is the practical and scientific presentation of this subject. If the methods set forth in this work were adopted in every hospital it is fair to presume that the mortality in gastro-intestinal surgery would be distinctly lowered.

In general it may be said of this book that it fills a place in surgery and should be a distinct help in bringing about a better preparatory and after-treatment in operative cases. While it deals with a wide field of surgery, still it can not be said that it wanders from its text. It displays the individuality of the author, and above all possesses the merit of being useful.

The publishers have done a good piece of book-making. The paper is better than is being given to most medical publications. It is to be hoped that the book will find a large appreciation.

J. P. WARBASSE.

URGENT SURGERY. By FÉLIX LEJARS of Paris. Translated from the Sixth French Edition by WILLIAM S. DICKIE, F.R.C.S. Vol. I. New York, William Wood and Company, 1910.

The author of this book does not mean by urgent surgery the surgery of injuries, but that of conditions demanding immediate surgical action, as distinguished from conditions which are distinctly not matters of emergency. If this book has any especial mission, it is to give the surgeon an understanding not only of the diseases demanding immediate surgical attention, but the nature of the attention which they should receive; and for the general practitioner it can perform the distinct service of informing him of the possibilities of surgery and remove from his mind the vague conceptions of what surgery may do for his acutely sick patient.

A feature of the book is that the translator has not edited it, for which reason the reader is brought into immediate touch with the methods of one of the best of French surgeons.

The introductory chapter deals with the equipment and the carrying out of emergency operations. As an example, the author takes the case of an operation required to be done in the country, in which there is extreme urgency with complete lack of necessaries. He shows the things of the household which may be used and how to use them for surgical purposes. This chapter deals also with anæsthesia of all types, infusions, and dressings.

The rest of the book is divided into sections dealing respectively with the head, neck, thorax, spine, and abdomen. Vol. II, it is presumed, will deal with the extremities and the parts not included in this first volume. Much that is not found in the ordinary general surgeries is presented in these chapters. Thus the emergency surgery of the eye is well presented, and such operations as paracentesis of the anterior chamber, emptying the globus, and enucleation are described. The suturing of wounds of the eye is illustrated with good pictures.

Tracheotomy and intubations would naturally be found well presented in such a work. The author deals with foreign bodies in the œsophagus and trachea in practical fashion. Most surgical literature treats of such foreign bodies as can be studied, and leisurely attacked; but it is true that many of these cases are of great urgency. The author displays an admirable activity in doing the thing for the patient's relief at once.

Wounds of the heart, foreign bodies in the heart, and empyema, receive practical treatment without procrastination. In discussing injuries to the cord attention is called to the importance of the deep reflexes. "If the tendon reflexes are preserved, even partially, a complete irremedial lesion of the cord may be excluded; but their absence during the first few days is not in itself conclusive, as the loss may be transitory."

The keynote to the treatment of injuries to the abdomen is to operate in doubtful cases. In these cases, "when there is a disagreement between the pulse and the temperature, it is the pulse which must be believed." Having opened the abdomen, the author takes up each condition that may be encountered, and applies the best treatment. A variety of hypothetic conditions

are described, more than will be found in the larger works on surgery. The surgeon who is familiar with this chapter will not be at a loss to know the approved treatment of any abdominal injury.

Under the section on the abdomen, are found also wounds and rupture of the kidney, ureter, and bladder. The urgent surgery of the uterus is also presented. This includes rupture of the uterus during labor. The author advises hysterectomy for the latter condition. The emergency operations upon the stomach and intestines are well described. Concerning appendicitis, the author agrees with the general consensus of opinion of American surgeons.

This is a valuable book, chiefly because of the large number of conditions, complications and combinations of urgent surgical diseases and injuries which it discusses. It has a distinctly French atmosphere. There are the French restlessness and energy, guided by the scientific intelligence which carries them to the mark. It is the surgery of the intensive life.

J. P. WARBASSE.

A TEXT-BOOK OF SURGERY. For Students and Practitioners. By GEORGE EMERSON BREWER, A.M., M.D., Professor of Clinical Surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York; Surgeon to the Roosevelt Hospital, etc. Second edition; octavo; 915 pages. New York and Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1909.

In this second edition of his book Dr. Brewer has treated his subjects in a less cursory manner. He has added new material and many excellent colored illustrations—this edition is two hundred pages larger than the first.

The first four chapters are devoted to inflammation and surgical diseases. The chapter on Tumors gives a definition of each of the growths we are in the habit of seeing: it gives also a suggestion as to treatment and is well illustrated. The chapter on Shock and its allied conditions gives a summary of our present knowledge, on these subjects.

After chapters on Surgical Technic and Anæsthesia, which contain nothing new except perhaps the illustration of Sutton's apparatus for colonic anæsthesia, the author takes up the injuries