

BOOK REVIEWS.

GENERAL SURGERY. By ERICH LEXER, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Koenigsberg. American edition, edited by ARTHUR DEAN BEVAN, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery, Rush Medical College, University of Chicago. Authorized translation of second edition by DEAN LEWIS, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, Rush Medical College. 4to, pp. 1200, 449 illustrations, 2 colored plates. D. Appleton & Co., New York and London, 1908.

It is a difficult undertaking to render in one volume, at the present day, a thorough account of the fundamental elements of surgery, yet this has been accomplished in this book. Stripped of all controversial matter, freed from antiquated methods and views, embodying all the accepted advances of recent times, rendered into good English, this Lexer-Bevan's "General Surgery" is a most valuable addition to the legion of text-books on surgery. The narrative is very direct, the history of surgical events very tersely and impartially dealt with, and an extensive bibliography is affixed to each chapter. The bibliography is partial to the German literature, but in all other respects the pen of the editor has been busy weaving into this narrative the fabric of American surgical effort. So numerous are the parentheses that this version, in English, must be conceded by the fastidious to be practically an American surgery.

The teachings of Lexer herein embodied we can trace to the inspiration of a master surgeon, E. von Bergman, at whose clinic he was active for many years and whence emanated many original contributions embodied in this work. Early in these pages we encounter the use of the original and telling expression "infection atria," meaning other than and more than a "*locus minoris resistentia.*" This happy expression, once the subject of Lexer's special research, is followed by a lucid explanation of inflammation of blood-vessels, which in turn gives place to a sound exposi-

tion of the pathology of osteomyelitis based on the X-ray studies of Lexer on injected specimens of normal bones, supplemented by his original bacteriological research in this disease.

The chapters on Asepsis are those originally formulated by Schimmelbusch, also emanating from Von Bergman's clinic, and for this reason it is most surprising to find allusion to the needs of frequent washings with antiseptic solutions, so directly contrary to the concepts of asepsis.

The diagnostic aids available from bacterial hæmatology are briefly touched upon, and the value of positive culture emphasized and the negative findings not underrated. Notable here is the cognizance taken of the work of American collaborators. The leucocyte count is only valued when correlated with other symptoms; and cryoscopy is spoken of, in much the same tone, as no final arbiter.

Such rarer surgical infections as hydrophobia, tetanus, diphtheria, anthrax, glanders, and actinomycosis are amply considered. The entire article on blastomycosis, so elaborately rendered out of all proportion to its significance and its occurrence, is masterfully written by Dr. Oliver Ormsby. In contrast the more widely met and encountered leprosy is well done in fewer pages. Tuberculosis and syphilis are detailed with great thoroughness, and the *Spirochæta pallida* assigned as the "casus morbi" of syphilis.

The treatment of infected wounds is built on the implicit belief and faith in asepsis; hence the exclusive use of sterilized gauze and immobilizing dressing as the chief factors to combat infections. It is somewhat consoling to see the author include himself amongst those who would isolate all cases of erysipelas from general surgical wards.

Necrosis is used generically to cover all forms of death in its molecular form, as well as that of tissues as a whole, and the mechanical, chemical, thermal, and organic changes of the blood-vessels responsible for this are considered seriatim and supplemented by the rôle played by syphilis, diabetes, and arteriosclerosis.

Under Neuropathic Gangrene are grouped Raynaud's disease, paralytic decubitus, ergot gangrene, mal perforans.

In one hundred pages of Part V, the "varia" of surgery are mentioned chiefly: Congenital anomalies, œdemas, constitutional

diseases of joints, bones, and tendons. In this chapter, we meet with aneurisms, and herein the endo-aneurismorrhaphy of Dr. Matas is well rendered.

The remaining 250 pages, nearly one-quarter of the book, are devoted to a succinct description of tumors, brought home to the mind and the eye still further by well-executed photographs showing topographical features and their gross, as well as microscopical, histological appearance.

Two brief chapters, styled Appendices, take in respectively Opsonins and Blood Transfusion. The former is from the pen of Dr. Rosenow, and the latter is abstracted from Dr. George Crile's articles.

MARTIN W. WARE.

A MANUAL OF OPERATIVE SURGERY. By SIR FREDERICK TREVES, Bart., and JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, JR. Third edition. In two volumes. Vol. I. Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febiger, 1909.

Frederick Treves is the author of "Applied Anatomy," a "Handbook of Surgical Operations," a "Manual of Operative Surgery," and the editor of the three volumes constituting the "Manual of Surgery." The first edition of the "Manual of Operative Surgery" appeared in 1891. Since that time, the author has retired from active work to the enjoyment of honors which have been so abundantly bestowed upon him, and to the leisure for contemplation of the large amount of work and experience with which his hands have had to do. It is natural, therefore, that this third edition should represent more of the work of Hutchinson than it does of Treves. And so we find it. The junior author has added, eliminated, revised and rewritten until it is really a new book, resembling the former editions chiefly in that it bears the name of Frederick Treves.

As the two former editions were practical and well abreast of the best surgical thought, so is this. It is rather full for a manual and well worthy of being called a text-book on operative surgery. By omitting long descriptions of operative steps, details as to incisions, instruments, and so forth, much space is economized. We heartily approve of the author's statement that, "Both surgery and medicine have been greatly hampered in