

If we were disposed to criticize, we might express the wish that the author had been more sparing in his recommendation of iridectomy, which it appears to us he advises on too many occasions. He seems to have joined the crusade, now so vigorously prosecuted by some leading ophthalmic surgeons in Germany and England, against that very useful and delicate organ, the iris, which those surgeons appear to imagine was created solely for the purpose of being excised by them. Among the selections made by Mr. L. for his test types is the fable of the fox which had lost its tail. The moral of this fable might perhaps be extended, and a useful practical lesson learned from it by iridectomists.

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ART. XXXIX.—*Lectures on the Diseases of Women.* By CHARLES WEST, M.D., etc. etc. Third American from the Third and Revised English Edition. 8vo. pp. 543. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea.

THE Lectures of Dr. West are so widely known and highly appreciated by the members of the profession in this country and in Europe, that it will be unnecessary for us to enter at this time upon any extended notice of the work. We would merely remark that the teachings of the author are based evidently upon very extended observations, and an intimate acquaintance with the writings of the most distinguished authorities of Europe upon the subjects of which he treats. So that, in respect to these, the work may be received by the medical student and inexperienced practitioner as a sufficient and faithful guide.

The present edition exhibits a general revision, and many important additions; the chief of these will be found under the heads of Uterine Hæmatocele and Ovarian Disease.

In reference to ovariectomy, Dr. W. admits that the operation is viewed with much greater favour than was the case seven years ago; "that the persevering efforts of its advocates have led to a greater accuracy of diagnosis; to a more careful selection of cases; to a removal of some of the dangers of the operation; to the discovery of the comparative safety of some proceedings, such as the return of the pedicle with the ligature around it into the abdomen, from which surgeons would have shrunk as nothing less than fatal, and to a more judicious after-treatment; and, consequently that ovariectomy has increased in certainty, and gained in safety."

D. F. C.

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ART. XL.—*The Practice of Medicine and Surgery applied to the Diseases and Accidents Incident to Women.* By WM. H. BYFORD, A. M., M. D., Prof. Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in Chicago Medical College, etc. 8vo. pp. 616. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1867.

THIS is a second and enlarged edition of a treatise which has been before the medical public for two years, during which time it has received the commendation of the medical press, and the approbation of the profession generally, as an exponent of sound pathological views in respect to the diseases and accidents of which it treats, and of those therapeutical and surgical means best adapted to their treatment.

In the edition before us the work throughout presents evidences of a careful revision, while there has been made to it a large addition of new matter, illustrative of the true character, etiology, and treatment of the diseases and accidents incident to women.

The pathological views of Dr. Byford seem to be, in general, legitimate deductions from accurate observations, and his therapeutical directions to be borne out by the experience of judicious and experienced practitioners. The work may be put in the hands of the medical student as a safe guide to learn the nature and diagnosis of the morbid affections of which woman is liable, and the means best adapted for their removal.

D. F. C.