

ATMOKAUSIS UND ZESTOKAUSIS: DIE BEHANDLUNG MIT HOCHGE-
SPANTEN WASSERDAMPF IN DER GYNAEKOLOGIE. (ATMOKAUSIS
AND ZESTOKAUSIS: THE GYNECOLOGICAL TREATMENT WITH STEAM
AND HIGH PRESSURE). By DR. LUDWIG PINCUS. Second
edition. Pp. 371. Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann, 1906.

THIS interesting monograph is an exhaustive review of the author's extended experience with a method of treatment which has received comparatively little attention in America, principally because of timidity and unfamiliarity with the technique, simple as the latter is. The first section of the first part of the book (pages 12 to 189 inclusive) is devoted to the history and development of the operation, including a reply to the various criticisms that have been urged against it. The following cautions are emphasized: (1) Thirty seconds should be regarded as the *maximum* time during which steam should be allowed to enter the uterine cavity. (2) The treatment must not be repeated until *complete regeneration of the endometrium has taken place*.

The second and third sections deal with the apparatus, and the proper method of using it, in order to avoid the sloughing and subsequent cicatrization of the soft parts of which many operators have complained.

An interesting chapter on experimental work is followed by one on anatomy, the latter being fully illustrated by photographs of uteri, showing the results obtained by the application of steam for varying periods of time, and the fact that its effects can be controlled by careful attention to the rules laid down.

The second half of the monograph is devoted to clinical facts, stress being laid upon the following points as necessary to the success of the treatment: thorough asepsis, thorough dilatation of the cervical canal and preliminary cleansing (*not curettement*) and drying of the uterine cavity, and the recognition of contraindications, especially disease of the adnexa. Narcosis is not necessary, as a rule. The treatment should not be attempted during menstruation, unless it is absolutely necessary to check serious hemorrhage. Strict rules are given with regard to keeping patients in bed under careful observation for not less than four days. The various indications and contraindications for atmokausis and zestokausis are given at length (pp. 229-239), so that the reader may infer that this method of treatment has been as carefully developed as the technique of any modern operation—if not more so. These have already frequently appeared in current literature and need not be repeated.

Preclimacteric bleeding is regarded as the most important indication for atmokausis, malignant disease being carefully excluded. The author states as a positive rule that total extirpation should never be performed for hemorrhage alone until atmokausis has had repeated trials. A number of successful cases is cited. The results

in cases of hemophilia are stated to be especially gratifying. The precautions to be observed in cases of hemorrhage due to fibroids are worth careful attention. Submucous growths, irregular depressions in the uterine cavity, are to be regarded as positive contraindications. In fact, the writer is careful to give the impression that the treatment should be limited to cases of hemorrhage in which on account of great weakness or cardiac complications a radical operation is unjustifiable.

Menorrhagia and metrorrhagia in childbearing women, in whom hemostasis alone is indicated, is contrasted with cases in which actual obliteration of the uterine cavity is desired, as in women with incurable diseases. Special sections follow on the treatment of subinvolution, senile endometritis, membranous dysmenorrhoea, and chronic gonorrhoeal endometritis, in each of which different precautions are to be observed. The concluding section is devoted to the limitations of zestokaustis, the gist of which is that the zestocautery is to be regarded as a sort of mild thermocautery in which an eschar seldom results.

This monograph concludes with an exhaustive bibliography, no less than four hundred writers being quoted. We are sure that the American reader who recognizes the great care with which the author has developed his method of treatment, will be induced to lay aside his prejudices against it and accord it a fair trial.

H. C. C.

THE DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR. By CHARLES PREVOST GRAYSON, A.M., M.D., Clinical Professor of Laryngology in the University of Pennsylvania. Pp. 550. Second edition. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1906.

THIS book is not only a thorough revision of the previous edition, but shows very extensive additions and alterations to the text. It is intended primarily for the use of students and beginners in the practice of rhinology and laryngology, and in fulfilment of this aim its author has shown the result of his long experience as a teacher in the University of Pennsylvania. In clear, concise diction he gets at the gist of his subject and presents it in easily assimilable form. One especially valuable feature of the work is the emphasis laid upon the relation of local lesions in the nose and throat to constitutional disorders. In Chapter IV there will be found a particularly good discussion of this subject. The author may possibly be regarded as holding rather strenuous views on the importance of faulty metabolism in various pathological conditions in the upper respiratory tract, but he advances good sound logic in support of his tenets. His discussion of chronic rhinitis contains