

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

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OPERATIVE SURGERY IN THE CALCUTTA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL :  
STATISTICS, CASES AND COMMENTS. By KENNETH MACLEOD, A.M.,  
etc. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1885. 8vo., pp. 351.

Few surgeons will have the industry and enthusiasm to imitate Professor Macleod in writing such a massive array of ordered facts, while we fear that only too many surgeons who could study it with infinite profit, will not take the opportunity. Every one of the author's eight hundred cases is here related graphically, and in more or less detail. They are arranged in classes, to each of which is added an instructive and judicious commentary. It is rather as a rich and truthful mine of facts than in any other way that this book will be valuable. But the comments will be found to be both agreeable and easy reading by any one who sits down to the book as to a volume of clinical lectures. Every where useful hints are to be gained; and in the author's frank pages each surgeon will find his own failures and difficulties paralleled.

Of especial value are the chapters on elephantiasis, on operations for hernia, on nerve-stretching and splitting (more particularly for anæsthetic leprosy). In these sections will be seen clear evidence of the author's originality.

Sets of cases, such as are to be discovered in this book, are of incalculably greater value than collections of equal numbers from the journals. The reason is very plainly stated in the preface of the work itself: "The single cases are most frequently the more striking or successful in the practice of the reporter, who does not consider it necessary to report the more commonplace or unfortunate. Successes are apt to be readily chronicled and failures unrecorded. Statistics based on data of this kind are simply untrue as representatives of the results of the particular operation whose instances are tabulated." Moreover, the task of collecting and analyzing these scattered journal-cases falls too often to some young gentleman who makes up in prejudice what he wants in knowledge and critical capacity.

The chapter on operations for radical cure of hernia is one of extraordinary merit. No other recent contribution to the subject can compare with it. No one should perform the "open operation" with-

out reading it. No one will read it without feeling how just and well-timed was the editorial published in the February number of this journal on "the dangers of modern operative procedures for the radical cure of hernia."

The book should be studied by every surgeon about to practice in India.

C. B. KEETLEY.

PETIT TRAITÉ SUR LES HERNIES. Par PIERRE FRANCO, Chirurgien de Lausanne. Réimpression identique au texte primitif. (Première édition, 1556.) Alcan. Paris. Gr. in-8. Extrait de la *Revue de Chirurgie*.

Born at Turriers, in Provence, at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century, Pierre Franco ventured upon the practice of the art of surgery, in Lausanne, in Berne, Switzerland, and in 1556, as the fruit of thirty years of practice, he produced his *Petit Traité contenant une des parties principales de chirurgie. Laquelle les Chirurgiens her-niers exercent ainsi qu'il est montré en la page suivante. Fait par Pierre Franco, chirurgien de Lausanne*, originals of which are exceedingly rare. In it are presented the ideas and conceptions of Franco himself, with little regard to authority. His style is pleasing because of its simplicity of diction, and its honesty and sincerity. Holding no professor's chair, protected by no influential patron, not even possessing a university title, he was, perhaps, the best representative of the peripatetic operator of the 15th and 16th centuries, making frequent excursions into neighboring towns "for hernias, hare-lips and stones." He is said to have taught anatomy at Fribourg and at Lausanne in later years. A glimpse at his character is given in his dedication and preface, in which he states that his book is published for the benefit of "those who practice their profession with fidelity, and fail only from ignorance," and "to repress the arrogance of the quacks, who deserve to be punished by the magistrates as highwaymen, seeing that, under the pretence of giving aid, they torment their poor patients and cause them miserably to die."

Half of the work is occupied by his discussion of Hernia and its cure, whence arose, perhaps, the prevalent misconception that this first edition was simply a treatise on hernia. Under hernia he includes all scrotal and inguinal tumors—hydrocele, sarcocoele, varicocoele and humoral and gaseous tumors, and the ruptures properly called, intestinal and omental, and bubonocoele. His operations for the relief of hernia proper are radical indeed. Using the word *didymis* for the "two tunics which envelope the spermatic vessels and their contents," he defines intestinal hernia as the descent of the intestines into the