

FONCTIONNEMENT DE LA MAISON D'ACCOUCHEMENTS BAUDELOQUE;
CLINIQUE DE LA FACULTÉ, dirigée par le PROFESSEUR ANOLPHE
PINARD. Année, 1897. Paris: Steinheil, 1898.

REPORT OF THE BAUDELOQUE OBSTETRIC CLINIC, under direction of PROF.
ANOLPHE PINARD.

THE appearance of the annual report of the Baudelocque clinic is always an interesting event in obstetrical literature, but this year it has more than ordinary interest in account of the practice pursued for some time in this clinic of administering Marmorek's antistreptococcic serum as a preventive as well as a curative measure in the treatment of puerperal infection. For those who are convinced of the efficacy of serum-therapy in sepsis, the use of the antitoxin to prevent as well as to cure sepsis is quite rational. The regulation of the clinic, therefore, to administer the serum in every case in which there is an extra predisposition to infection, as in long labors, premature rupture of the membranes, etc., is logical. Unfortunately, in one sense, the clinical results of this treatment are inconclusive. The mortality from sepsis is very low, it is true, less than a quarter of one per cent., but it has always been low of late years in this excellently-managed institution, and there is no striking difference since the prophylactic use of the serum was adopted. The morbidity was extraordinarily low, less than 7 per cent., but the same immunity from fever is shown in the records of other well-managed maternities in which the serum is not employed at all.

Two other interesting features of the report are the preference shown for the Porro operation in cases requiring Cæsarean section and the extraordinary diminution in the number of symphysiotomies as compared with former years.

B. C. H.

ON CARDIAC FAILURE AND ITS TREATMENT. By ALEXANDER MORISON, M.D. Edin.; F.R.C.P. Edin.; Physician to Out-patients to the Great Northern Central Hospital and the Paddington Green Children's Hospital; Physician to the St. Marylebone General Dispensary. Pp. xx. 256. London: The Rebman Publishing Company, Ltd., 1897.

THIS book has been written with especial reference to the use of baths and exercise. The number of works upon this subject presented from the Neuheim stand-point is steadily increasing, and when compared with the earlier—for example, Thom's—this shows a marked improvement. The first rush to get into print resulted in books which injured the cause they were designed to plead, and were not creditable either to the author or the profession of which he was a member. The present is an earnest attempt to offer the truth, with a predilection toward certain phases of treatment which have received but little attention in this connection. The author is unfortunate in his title, which may mean much or little, but is certainly indefinite. He fails to appreciate the mechanical problem to which vascular changes give rise in his enumeration of the causes of cardiac failure (p. 90). His argument as to the "buffer" action of the ganglionic system presents in another form an explanation of unex-

pected betterment in certain desperate states. Of new matters we may cite the author's sensory dynamometer (p. 169), the use of sea-water in making up baths (p. 118), and the appreciation of Zandee's methods of exercise (pp. 157 *et seq.*).

This book presents a broad view of the subject, and is written in a fair and candid spirit. Of the defects to be found in it many might be cited: peculiarly constructed sentences, of which some examples are to be found on p. 115; variation in proper names, as v. Busch (p. 213), who appears as Bach on p. 132 and p. 145; cactus certainly does not belong to the digitalis group, as stated on p. 94; the purpose of blood examination in cardiac disease is by no means similar to that of the urine in renal disease (p. 81), although it may be equally important; finally, the use of the word "case" when "patient" is intended—patients have died because their "cases" were treated. Contradictory statements are found in regard to the publication of Schott's observations with radiography on pp. 200 and 202; the defects of these observations have already been pointed out in this JOURNAL. The fairest estimation of the value of baths and exercise in cardiac disease is, we believe, that of Stewart, presented at Carlisle in 1896, and this the author quotes with approbation (p. 222). Of the appendix by Dr. Groedel little need be said, for its dogmatic statements do not impress the reader who has followed the literature. Much as we deprecate the presentation of special pleading under a general title, in this work the *ex parte* argument has careful consideration and has been logically set forth, resting upon well-known facts.

R. W. W.

A CLINICAL, PATHOLOGICAL, AND EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF FRACTURE OF THE LOWER END OF THE RADIUS. By JOHN B. ROBERTS, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1897.

DR. ROBERTS describes in detail the cases and specimens seen and collected by him of fracture of the lower end of the radius having an anterior displacement of the distal fragment. Dr. Roberts has seen no fresh fracture having the displacement. He has seen four cases in which the accident occurred some eighteen months or more previously in each instance.

Some thirty-one specimens are described, found after careful and persistent search in different museums, and collected from the experience of private surgeons, all of which specimens suggest or demonstrate a lesion like the one under consideration.

Dr. Roberts then describes ten experiments to determine the effect of extreme and forcible flexion upon the wrist and lower end of the radius. The causes and mechanism of this especial deformity are discussed briefly.

Roberts concludes that the fracture of the lower end of the radius with anterior displacement of the distal fragment is caused in three ways: first, tearing off of the lower end by a cross-breaking strain exerted through the posterior ligaments during extreme flexion, when the force is applied to the back of the hand in front of the anterior surface of the radius; second, crushing of the anterior portion of the

bone between the wrist-bones and the shaft, or mutual penetration of the diaphyseal and epiphyseal portions; and third, rupture of the bony tissue of the weakest point by decomposition of the force to which the limb is subjected. Nothing new is suggested under the heading of Diagnosis and Treatment.

This contribution of Dr. Roberts is valuable in that it calls attention to an evidently rare deformity associated with Colles' fracture, and one not yet recorded as seen by any surgeon in the fresh and recent fracture. The possibility of this deformity being due to forces acting after the initial force or during treatment is to be borne in mind.

The writer can imagine this deformity being easily produced in a misuse of many forms of manufactured splint so commonly used for the treatment of Colles' fracture. The old Lewis splint may cause just such a deformity.

Non-reduction of deformity, or the neglect of cases already reduced and concealed by cumbersome apparatus, may be causes of the occurrence of this anterior displacement.

C. L. S.

"CATAPHORESIS," OR ELECTRIC MEDICAMENTAL DIFFUSION AS APPLIED IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND DENTISTRY. By WILLIAM JAMES MORTON, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System and Electro-Therapeutics in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. One large 8vo, with 227 illustrations. New York: Published by the American Technical Book Company, 1898.

In this work Dr. Morton, who is the recognized authority on "cataphoresis," has supplied a much-needed volume in which the whole subject is systematically presented in six parts, all the data to be found therein being both interesting and instructive. Part I. Historical, treats of the early experiments, modern revival, and developments of Electric Medicamentation as Applied to Dentistry. Part II. Physics and Physiology. Part III. Apparatus and Outfit. Part IV. Special Applications in Dental Surgery. Contained in these four parts which are especially valuable, the busy practitioner may find clear and concise descriptions of the origin, apparatus, and methods of application not elsewhere attainable, for prior to the publication of this much-needed volume the only sources of information on electric medicamentation were occasional papers appearing in the professional journals, and these, being for the most part the contributions of individuals to whom the subject was new, lacked the elements of precision and authority which belong to the work of an author who, like Dr. Morton, has made the subject a life-time study.

The absence of a systematic literature of cataphoresis has doubtless deterred many practitioners from employing it in practice, but this tardiness has not been confined to the older practitioners, as stated by the author; on the contrary, the older members of the dental profession are the ones who have evinced the greatest interest in it, and have done most toward the development of its clinical uses.

The author's manner of elucidating his subject is attractive and cal-

culated to retain the interest of the reader throughout. Part V., devoted exclusively to special applications in dental surgery, treats of the subject in a manner indicative of much study and familiarity with dental operations. Anæsthetization of sensitive dentine, anæsthesia of the gums, bleaching of teeth by cataphoresis, antiseptics or sterilization of the teeth, and diffusion from soluble electrodes, include all the conditions to which electrical diffusion is applicable in the practice of dentistry, and its employment in the treatment of cases belonging to this category is made so clear by the text and the admirable illustrations, that no one interested in that branch of therapeutics can well afford to be without the book.

The work closes very appropriately with Part VI., on the use of cataphoresis in the staining of dead tissues in microscopical work.

N. S. E.

MANUAL OF OPERATIVE SURGERY. By H. J. WARINO, M.S., M.B., F.R.C.S., Demonstrator of Operative Surgery, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, etc. 12mo, pp. 661. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland, 1898.

THE author has intended this volume for a text-book for classes in operative surgery on the cadaver, but it is valuable as a book of reference on operative procedures on the living. It gives a description of a good many operations not usually performed in the surgical laboratory, and pays some attention to the conditions demanding the operations discussed. It, of course, omits entirely the consideration of symptomatology and diagnosis, which would be foreign to its purpose.

It is fully illustrated, and many of its diagrammatic cuts are unusually suggestive, though not artistic. Among the illustrations of instruments there are depicted some which seem very clumsy and old-fashioned to American eyes.

The volume is well arranged, evenly balanced, and a worthy representative of its class. If it contains little that claims special attention, it is because the subject-matter is trite and not of a character to give play to originality.

There is, however, an air of conservatism about the statements that almost suggests that the book was not particularly needed, since what it says has been said so often before in a manner perhaps equally satisfactory.

J. B. R.

YELLOW FEVER: CLINICAL NOTES BY JUST TANATRE, M.D. (Paris), former Physician-in-Chief of the French Society Hospital, New Orleans; Member of the Board of Experts, Louisiana State Board of Health. Translated from the French by CHARLES CHASSAIGNAO, M.D., President New Orleans Polyclinic; Editor New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal. Pp. xiv. 206. New Orleans: New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, Ltd., 1898.

THIS is a timely book, in that yellow fever at this critical period becomes a subject of practical interest not only to those whose medical