

BOOK REVIEWS.

VAGINAL CŒLIOTOMY. By S. WYLLIS BANDLER, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Diseases of Women, New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. Octavo of 450 pages, with 148 illustrations. Philadelphia and London, W. B. Saunders Company, 1911.

The contents of this treatise are divided as follows: posterior vaginal cœliotomy; anterior vaginal cœliotomy; simple vaginal hysterectomy; indications and limitations in disease of adnexa; hysterectomy for myomata, submucous, deep interstitial tumors, and intraligamentous growths, hysterectomy and technic with indications for vaginal Cæsarean section.

The distinctive character of the work is the technic of the several operations discussed.

Relatively speaking, the book is neither dogmatic nor controversial, but the author points out in terse, plain language the reasons for his beliefs and methods. A tone of unobtrusive confidence pervades the book and impresses the reader that its author is speaking logically and from an experience which lends authority to its teachings. Concise and positive statement without circumlocution has enabled the writer to cover his ground in a comparatively small volume, and this fact adds immensely to its intrinsic value.

From the author's standpoint, the student and the operator are not left in doubt as to the technic of any operation, a fact not always easy to comprehend from didactic teaching. The art of the illustrators is carried to a high degree of perfection, so ideal that the reader sometimes questions whether they obscure the real.

After reading the book one is impressed with the conscious confidence and finality of its teachings, and admiration for the elegance of its diction.

Probably the subject of posterior vaginal cœliotomy comes first in point of value and ability. The usefulness of this procedure is of the highest importance in the ascites of peritoneal tuberculosis, and within certain limitations, paradoxical as it may appear, makes this form of tuberculosis easily curable. Again

the author gives proper emphasis to its value in pelvic abscess. Whenever there may be uncertainty as to pus being in the peritoneal cavity or in the connective tissues lateral or posterior to the uterus, the procedure is equally wise and valuable.

Posterior cœliotomy for delivery of uterus and for removing ovarian cysts after Dührssen's method is warmly advocated.

While the author refers to Prior's most useful practice concerning this route in pelvic peritonitis, he dismisses it without further comment.

The subject of anterior vaginal cœliotomy is reviewed in quoting the views of German authorities, as Sanger, Zweifel, Dührssen, Kuster from 1888 to 1905, and in 1896 of Wertheim in devising vaginal fixation and shortening of the round ligaments.

He also quotes American authorities in the use of the anterior vaginal route, mentioning Boldt's operation for vaginal hysterectomy in 1887, and Goff's early adoption of this route for retroversion, retroflexion, and conservative operations on the adnexa, together with myomectomy for fibroids and operations for ectopic gestation.

He fortifies his claim to the superiority of anterior vaginal cœliotomy by Abel's acknowledgment that abdominal operations are easier than vaginal, who also states his early objections to the vaginal route were due to the fact that he did not understand its technic.

Notwithstanding his sincere, forceful advocacy of the advantages of anterior cœliotomy, he is equally positive in the reasons for which it is contraindicated. Among these are pregnancy, involvement of the appendix, of co-existing necessity of exploring the gall-bladder, large irregular fibroids, intraligamentous tumors, hæmatomas high up, etc.

While it is impossible to go into detail of other operations recommended, that of vaginal Cæsarean section is entitled to more than passing notice. "We are able," he says, after Dührssen, "with the aid of vaginal Cæsarean section in all normal pelves, and in such pelves whose conjugate is not less than 7.5 or 8 cm., at any period of pregnancy or labor even without pains and a completely closed cervix, to empty the uterus of its contents within a few minutes." This is radical obstetrical surgery not likely to come into general use by the average obstetrician, but with a field of usefulness well established and likely to be enlarged in proportion as the confidence and technical ability of the accoucheur expand.

In no part of the splendidly illustrated treatise are the various types in operative procedure better shown than in that of the vaginal Cæsarean section, or their utility better enforced.

One point in the technic of most of these operations which challenges a reason for its adoption is the nearness to the external os—at which the operator begins his inverted double incisions.

Finally it may be stated that while the clearness and logic of the writer cannot be gainsaid, it is hardly probable that its teaching in the main will in any great extent influence many operators to abandon their preference for an abdominal cœliotomy.

WALTER B. CHASE.

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNIC. By ALBERT S. MORROW, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Surgery in the New York Polyclinic. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London, 1911.

The author has incorporated in this volume a large number of the procedures employed in the various methods of diagnosis and also of treatment. While some of the methods detailed belong essentially to the domain of the specialist, the majority are practical procedures which the general practitioner, and especially the hospital interne, may be called upon to perform at any time.

The plan of the work comprises, first, a description of certain general diagnostic and therapeutic methods and, second, a description of those measures employed in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting special regions and organs of the body.

All procedures are given in detail, thus obviating the necessity of referring back to other portions of the text; this, however, causes unavoidable repetition which does not in any way detract from the value of the book.

The illustrations are well drawn and profuse. The present work deserves especial recommendation for the general knowledge which it conveys.

INDUCED CELL-REPRODUCTION AND CANCER. By HUGH CAMPBELL ROSS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., with the assistance of JOHN WESTLEY CROPPER, M.B., M.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Philadelphia, 1911.

This is a study in the isolation of the chemical causes of normal and augmented, asymmetrical human cell-division. It is a fascinating story of research along new lines, dealing with the microscopic study of living cells. Incidentally one