

command, they are, nevertheless, liable to the disturbing influences that beset fashionable and artificial states of society.

Dr Duncan's deductions regarding the regularity of occurrence and the amount of puerperal fever, are, in our opinion, exceedingly valuable, and calculated to quiet the troubled minds of many accoucheurs who may have been educated into belief in the epidemic nature of that dire disease. But we think justice to Dr Duncan's own views ought to have made him more careful in stating precisely in how far he differs from the nomenclature of the distinguished foreign physicians, whose views he quotes in the last chapter, and with whom he states himself to agree in a general way. For, notwithstanding the author's caveat about the indefiniteness of terms, we think the hurried reader will be at a loss to see how Dr Duncan can use such strong terms at page 100 against the belief that puerperal metria is epidemic, and quote approvingly the statements of German physicians as to its epidemic nature at pages 161-3.

But, on the whole, we recommend the work as a just, scientific, and ably-reasoned defence of the hospital system, for which its author deserves the best thanks and sincere gratitude of all members of the profession anxious to get at the truth of the matter.

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*The Change of Life in Health and Disease.* By EDWARD JOHN TILT, M.D., etc., etc. Third Edition. London: John Churchill and Sons: 1870.

DR TILT is well known as a gynæcological author, and so is his especial work on the change of life. The great abilities of Dr Tilt, his extensive knowledge, his literary power, are well shown in this book; but we must seek for other merits in a work of this kind, and we are pleased to say that it has substantial though peculiar merits. It is, however, not a book of the first class. It reminds us more of old than of recent books, bristling as the latter do either with facts or with fancies. Of course we prefer the former kind, full of facts. They are few, but increasing in number. A large proportion of them comes from Germany. Of the latter kind, bristling with fancies—with an ulceration of the uterus fitted in to explain everything, with a clitoridectomy or a coccygectomy, or a new pessary—we have in English a full proportion, we grieve to say. Tilt's work belongs to neither category. It is a learned discursive volume on the subject of which it treats, and contains many sage practical recommendations. It will amply repay perusal; and every chapter of it has this merit, that it raises questions (which the author too often fancies that he settles) which any young gynæcologist may be proud to solve, and for the solution of many of which, we may tell the young gynæcologist, there are already ample materials, not a few of which are to be found in this very work.

Dr Tilt's work has reached a third edition. It is elegantly got up. We recommend it to all interested in the subject of the change of life in health and disease.

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*Etude sur les Grossesses compliquées de Myomes Utérins.* Par le Dr LAMBERT. Paris: 1870.  
*A Study of Pregnancies complicated with Uterine Myomata.* By Dr LAMBERT. Paris: 1870.

THE history of 1870 will show a great falling off in the number of books published in the gay capital of the world. Among them, however, is Dr Lambert's valuable essay.

This is Dr Lambert's first book, but not his first published work. Our readers will remember an interesting paper from his pen which appeared lately in this Journal: it was on the use of chloral in labour.

Of the numerous—it is said, above thirty—names given to good old-fashioned fibrous tumours, our author selects one of the new, if not the very newest. What's in a name? Answer, A great deal; but this is not a fit subject for a critical notice.

Dr Lambert has shown great good sense in taking up a limited and well-defined subject for his first essay in book-making; and, further, we are bound to say, he has done the work well, bringing out his points in a clear artistic way. He shows everywhere through his book that he has spared no trouble to get at the whole literature, and, through it, the facts, of his subject; and, considering that the book is in French, this is no slight praise. We cannot generally compliment French authors in this way. Poor people; they have several lessons, besides those of war, to learn from their neighbours the Germans. Even Lambert, however, has not got the "biggest" case ever guessed in midwifery, in which our Transatlantic cousins excised, by gastrotomy, gravid uterus, tumours, and all. Is it necessary to add that the patient did not survive!

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*The Medical Works of Francisco Lopez de Villalobos, the celebrated Court Physician of Spain.* Now first translated, with Commentary and Biography. By GEORGE GASKOIN, K. Commander of the R. Military Order J. Christo of Portugal, and of the R. Order Isabella la Cattolica of Spain, Surgeon to the British Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, etc. London: 1870.

FROM a number of complaints of the habits and tendencies of the medical literature of the day, it would appear that Mr Gaskoin does not expect a very favourable reception for his translation and bio-