

It would be out of place to review more fully a second edition of a work so well known and so highly appreciated as this, and so we have preferred simply to call attention to one or two points in which the present edition differs, or might be expected to differ, from the former.

IV.—COOPER'S DICTIONARY OF PRACTICAL SURGERY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SURGICAL SCIENCE. New Edition, brought down to the present date. By SAMUEL A. LANE. Vols. I. and II. London: Longmans. 1872.

THE voluminous work which has just been completed is well worthy of maintaining the eminent position which Cooper's Surgical Dictionary has enjoyed, since its first publication by its talented author in 1809.

The original text is taken as the framework of the present edition; but Mr Lane has found it necessary, from the progress which surgery has made since the last edition, to make extensive erasures, to supplement the original in some parts, and in others to have the articles entirely re-written. Besides this, there are a few articles added to this edition which had no place in the last. So that, out of above 2000 pages comprising the dictionary, there are 700 entirely new.

Mr Lane has associated with him in his arduous undertaking a number of gentlemen, among whom we find Erichsen, Thomson, Macleod, Druitt, Spencer Wells, Ancell, and many others whose names are well known to the profession, and sufficiently guarantee the standard of the work allotted to each.

Appended to each article there is an extensive, and in most cases an exhaustive bibliography with all the books or papers which have been written on the subject. What appears to have been aimed at is to give to the reader, first of all, the views of one eminently qualified, who has had favourable practical opportunities of forming an opinion, and who has made the question under consideration a special study. Secondly, to summarise the more important views which have been advanced, along with a brief statement of their value in current opinion. And lastly, to refer the reader for further information to the whole literature of the subject.

It is interesting to observe the advancements which have been made in surgery since the last edition was published. While investigations, embracing nearly every department of surgery, have been carried out in great variety, the most fertile fields, and those which have produced the best results,

are "Pathology," "Methods of Investigation," "Operative Surgery," and the "Treatment of Wounds." The first of these has been greatly advanced, by means of experimental physiology; and among those who have pursued the subject most earnestly we find the names of Syme, Paget, Lister, Flourens, Brown-Sequard.

The microscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, endoscope, have exposed new paths, and contributed much to our knowledge. The introduction of artificial anæsthesia has been one of the most signal advances in the resources of surgery. Syphilis has been elucidated by the researches of Ricord, though much remains to be determined as to the unicity or duality of the poison; and much more before the profession will believe in the rather dubious benefit supposed to be derived from syphilization.

There have been many experimental investigations into the subject of arresting hæmorrhage, and several substitutes for the old ligature have been introduced, but none of these have proved of so much value as the carbolised animal ligature, which, indeed, leaves little to be desired.

Conservative surgery has also advanced apace, and this, for the most part, has been forwarded by British surgeons. In gun-shot wounds, the results of conservative surgery have been very satisfactory. "Esmarck, Stromeyer, Langenbeck, Longmore, Macleod, Muir, Blenkins, Williamson, have rendered great service in this department of surgery. The success of our British surgeons in the Crimea was by far greater than those of the French."

One of the greatest advances in surgery has, undoubtedly, been made in the dressing of wounds. The antiseptic system has completely revolutionized the treatment of wounds. Having watched the development of the theory and its practice, step by step, from the first attempts with the carbolized blood, through the long list of experiments, up till the present time; and remembering the extreme dubiety with which it was regarded, even so lately as the meeting of the "British Medical Association" at Leeds, when it was hinted that it bore a strong flavour of empiricism: it is gratifying to find such passages as these—"The carbolic acid dressings of Mr Lister, of Glasgow, promise to render great service in preventing the suppurative and putrefactive changes in injured parts, and have already produced results justly characterised as 'astounding:'" and, under the heading "Wounds" (a long, exhaustive, and highly interesting treatise, by the Professor

of Surgery in Glasgow), the following passage, after describing the method of applying the antiseptic dressing—“That very much can be done by the careful development of this system of practice, and that much more may be expected of it than has even yet been accomplished, no one who has read Mr Lister’s able papers can doubt.”

Although we can no longer claim the results obtained daily in practice by antiseptics as “astounding,” it is merely because repetition detracts from the marvellous. Yet, much requires to be done, especially in the treatment of amputations, which for the most part have not yet proved amenable to antiseptics.

Both volumes form one of the most complete and compendious works which have been issued in Surgery, and may be referred to with reliance as a mine of intrinsic value.

V.—THE PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF WOMEN.
By GRAILY HEWITT, M.D. Third Edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1872.

CLINICAL LECTURES ON DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN. By LOMBE ATTHILL, M.D. Second Edition. Dublin: Fannin & Co., Grafton St. 1872.

THIS ample volume, by Dr Graily Hewitt, with its numerous and beautiful woodcut illustrations, might tempt any one to interest himself in the subject, even though the reader should belong to that old school of practitioners who but hesitatingly admit the occasional usefulness of the speculum and uterine sound. In point of arrangement the present is superior to former editions. The natural history of the uterus and ovaries in health is followed by a series of descriptions illustrative of the pathological changes affecting these organs, and of their treatment respectively. Flexions and displacements of the uterus have a prominent place, for, according to the author’s belief, they are the most fruitful source of ill-health, pain, and discomfort, not only by affecting the surrounding viscera, but by producing morbid changes in the structure of the uterus itself, such as congestions, abrasions, and ulcerations. In consistency with this view he has given the subject of uterine adjustment and support much study, and has invented or modified certain mechanical appliances, more especially the flexible ring pessary, which is here represented in its various forms, by drawings from photographs. The posture of the body he considers of much importance in rectifying abnormal conditions, thus:—

“The first point to be attended to in the treatment of retroflexion of the uterus is the position of the body. The patient should lie, not upon