

he will possess no mean knowledge of "book-anatomy." In the section of the thorax we fail to find any description of the tricuspid valve or of the superficial cardiac plexus; but, on the other hand, especial prominence is given to such out-of-the-way things as the *moderator band* and *vestigial fold of Marshall*. On the whole, however, we must commend the general accuracy and clearness of the descriptions.

Motherhood: a Book for every Woman. By DR. ALICE KER (MRS. STEWART KER). Manchester and London: John Heywood. 1891.

THE title of this work declares it to be "a book for every woman," and it deserves to have a wide circulation. Medical men would do well to recommend its perusal to the mothers and young wives in their practice, who are quite ignorant of the mysterious laws that govern their bodies, and who would be grateful for information and advice. The author's object in writing is stated to be "a raising of the standard of physical and mental health among the women and children of this generation and the next." It is a wide subject, treated in a generous and womanly way.

Mrs. Ker considers the life of woman from birth till "the heavenly side of fifty," and states clearly what should be done and what avoided through all phases of her existence. She pleads for "mothering," and considers that full confidence between mother and daughter should greatly simplify the necessary explanations regarding the bodily functions. "Nothing that is physically wrong can be morally right," writes the author; yet how constantly, through ignorance, do girls and women do incalculable mischief to themselves.

Dr. Ker regrets that, "in spite of all that is taught and written on the subject of health, and in spite of everything that is being done for the education of women, the question of periodicity is left entirely out of sight, and the hardest work of a girl's school life comes on precisely during those years when she ought to be most tranquil." Further—"Girls must not be allowed to think themselves inferior to boys; on the contrary, it is because of the finer and more highly finished nature of the instrument that it must be treated with extra care." "Girls are capable of doing quite as much mental work as boys, and of doing it equally well, and there is no reason why they should not follow the same course of study, and pass the same final examinations, provided that in certain

cases the application be varied to suit the days when they feel less vigorous."

Dr. Ker declares for rational dress, having due regard to the quantity required.

The chapter on Matrimony contains many useful hints and advices, and might suitably be studied by husbands and fathers. "In the marriage relation, the choice of time and frequency is the right of the woman by reason of the periodicity which characterises her being, and the violation of this law injures not only herself physically and morally, but also her husband and her children. If a wife has not got the control of her own person, in what respect is she better than those most unhappy members of our sisterhood who are pathetically defined as 'unfortunates.' It is of no use to insist on self-control and self-restraint outside the marriage tie if they are not to be practised within the pale of wedlock also; and here they will be of untold benefit to the next generation."

Many wise counsels are given in the different chapters—very needful to the great majority of women. The book is an honest attempt to perform a difficult task; and, though by no means free from a certain exaggerated statement of pet ideas, yet we are able to recommend it to our readers, and to bespeak for it a large circulation.

Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Vol. XVI.
Session 1890-91. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd. 1891.

UNDER the presidency of Dr. Berry Hart, the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society has had an even more than usually active year, and must again be congratulated on its vitality. While this volume of transactions cannot be said to contain any "epoch-making" paper—indeed, we may at once say that there is none which strikes us as reaching a very high level of excellence—it is a valuable record of much serious and interesting work.

The President contributes no less than five papers besides his presidential address. Of these, perhaps the most valuable are "The Anatomy and Mechanism of Early Abortion" and "The Displacement of the Placenta in Extra-uterine Gestation and its relation to those cases ending in Pelvic Abscess."

Dr. Halliday Croom has an interesting paper on "The