

in this world, and in this case the dissector of the preparation figured has committed the error of clearing away all the adjacent viscera except the bladder, uterus, and large intestine. Whilst the four retractors which hold open the abdominal incision are portrayed with the utmost fidelity, and the outlines of the pelvis and femora are elegantly indicated in pink ink, the actual relations of the diseased tubes are less perfectly displayed. But the artist, Mr. Brödel, shows that he knows how to draw pelvic organs, and the beautiful plates, representing diseased tubes, have not the defect seen in Plate xvi.

Dr. Cullen's work requires close study, if only to show how much more remains to be done in a field where so many have been labouring for the last twenty years. These reports relate to "Hydrosalpinx," "Post-operative Septic Peritonitis," and "Tuberculosis of the Endometrium." Analysis of the first and last subjects as treated by Dr. Cullen is not suited for a literary review. The second is a very grave report of a run of ill-luck in an institution where the minutest precautions seem to be conscientiously enforced and observed. Four out of five abdominal sections performed in one week last January were followed by death. The authorities of the hospital and Dr. Cullen are greatly to be commended for this full record of a week's disasters. We doubt, however, if many authorities on this side of the Atlantic Ocean will attribute the four deaths to the use of catgut kept in juniper oil instead of the same material soaked in alcohol. The juniper-oil catgut was, it appears, placed in a steam steriliser for half an hour before each operation. If Dr. Cullen's suspicions be well founded, it may be said without flippancy: "What is the good of a steriliser?" We find, however, that as all the gut was used during the operations, no bacteriological examination could be made afterwards. Dr. Cullen therefore quite rightly refrains from actually condemning the unfortunate catgut. Some mischief got in which all the precautions taken by the operator failed to keep out, but what that mischief was remains undiscovered.

UeBER DIE AUTOINTOXICATIONEN DES INTESTINALTRACTUS. [Auto-intoxication from the Alimentary Canal.] Von Dr. ALBERT ALBU. Berlin: A. Hirschwald. 1895. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 216. M. 5.) The subject of auto-intoxication forms a new and valuable chapter recently added to pathology, and the author of this book is a well-known worker in this field.

In the introduction a general account is given of auto-intoxication. The author defines it as a poisoning of the individual by the products of his own metabolism, which products either exist normally, but have accumulated in too great amount, or are present abnormally in the sense that they should have undergone destruction in some other part of the body, or should exist in very small quantities, or not at all. He says that as yet no satisfactory classification can be given. For the present he would divide them into (1) those due to the suppression of the functions of an organ, as in myxœdema; (2) those with general metabolic abnormalities, but without distinct localisation, as in diabetes; (3) those due to the retention of physiological products, as in uræmia; and (4) those brought about by the over-production of physiological and pathological products.

In the section on gastro-intestinal auto-intoxications there are 21 chapters in which the modes of origin, etc., of the various diseases supposed to be due to auto-intoxication are discussed. It may, perhaps, cause surprise to see some diseases in the list, such as pernicious anæmia and chlorosis. Under the latter the well-known views of the late Sir Andrew Clark are referred to. They have certainly not been at all generally accepted in this country, and much the same may also be said of the views which would attribute pernicious anæmia to a lesion of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane. The best case is undoubtedly made out for tetany, also for infantile convulsions; the author very naturally repudiates the theory which assigns these diseases to so-called reflex effects.

In Chapter II the various functions of the liver are admirably expounded. It would appear as if the day were approaching when the liver will again claim an important place in pathology owing to the disturbance of its manifold physiological functions. Addison's disease, Graves's disease, and

puerperal eclampsia are dealt with in an appendix. The treatment of these diseases is important, and the exact knowledge of their causes can alone provide a rational treatment. If the functions of an organ are in abeyance, then organotherapy should be a specific treatment, but as yet it appears to have been really successful only in the case of the thyroid gland. The ideal objects of treatment are well stated as being (1) to hinder the production of the poisons, (2) to hinder their absorption, (3) to destroy them (for example, by increasing the activity of the liver), and (4) to promote their excretion through the skin, lungs, intestine, and kidneys. The author, with much show of reason, thinks that there can be no such thing as a really satisfactory intestinal antiseptic. The best way of disinfecting the alimentary canal is to get rid of the decomposing and stagnant contents.

The author may certainly be congratulated on having produced an important work on a subject of acknowledged difficulty and still needing much elucidation. His book seems to contain all that is really worth knowing about auto-intoxication at the present moment, and is in addition supplemented by an excellent bibliography.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Disorders of the Male Sexual Organs. By EUGENE FULLER, M.D., Instructor in Genito-Urinary and Venereal Diseases in New York Post-Graduate Medical School. (Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1895. Demy 8vo, pp. 241.)—The title of this book is misleading; the only subject discussed at any length is inflammation of the seminal vesicles, usually gonorrhœal. Dr. Fuller has given careful study to the anatomy and physiology of the vesicles, and has with great industry considered the forms of inflammation to which they are liable. In cases of painful and troublesome chronic inflammation, not tuberculous, he especially advocates evacuation of the vesicles by digital pressure *per rectum*. His book contains an abundance of work and of pathology, but it is open to the charge of narrowness and ultra-specialism. Certainly his successes in treatment of cases of failing or aberrant sexual power by this form of massage appear remarkable; but the patients themselves are so uncertain and unbalanced that we must hesitate before feeling sure that their improvement will stand the test of time, or that their benefit after treatment was not, in this or that case, due to the mental change that was thus wrought.

The Chemist's Compendium for Pharmacists, Chemists, and Students. Compiled by C. J. S. THOMPSON. (London: Whitaker and Co. 1896. 12mo, pp. 230. 2s. 6d.)—This work is a handy book of reference for the pharmacist. The contents include the essential points of the various matters which come into the daily practice of pharmacy. There is a complete synopsis of the formulæ of the *British Pharmacopœia* and also the unofficial formulary of the *B.P.C.*, a list of modern remedies with their characters, etc., hints for dispensing French and German prescriptions, excipients for pills, pharmaceutical analysis and analysis of urine, poisons and antidotes, doses, photographic chemicals and solutions, stains for microscopic objects, and many other matters of a similar varied character. The book is convenient in size, the matter well arranged, and undoubtedly it will be extremely useful to the pharmacist.

A Manual of Obstetrics. By A. F. A. KING, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Medical Department of the Columbian University, Washington, etc. Sixth Edition. (London: Henry Kimpton. 1896. Demy 8vo, pp. 533.)—The fact that this work has reached its sixth edition shows that it has received the approbation of a large class of readers. Close criticism is therefore by this time superfluous. The work is essentially dogmatic, not explanatory or argumentative. It is clear, simple, and unpretentious, yet it contains a large amount of information. Although in this country some teachers of obstetrics might on some points controvert the precepts and opinions of Dr. King, yet in the main his presentation of the subject matter will meet with acceptance.