

Into the vexed question as to the comparative value of Listerism in abdominal operations Mr. Doran does not enter. He merely observes that he "has not as yet discarded antiseptics from his own practice."

The main part of the volume is taken up with descriptions of the chief gynecological operations. This is the essential part of the work. Speaking generally, we may say that these procedures are admirably described. The author enters into the most careful detail, and brings every step of each operation before the reader in a simple and concise manner. The two best and most valuable chapters concern ovariectomy and oophorectomy. No more complete and minute accounts of these operations have ever been published, and the author may well be proud of this portion of his work.

The remaining chapters of the volume deal with supra-vaginal hysterectomy, amputation of the cervix, the operative treatment of extra-uterine pregnancy, Cæsarean section and Porro's operation, the repair of ruptured perineum, the operative treatment of prolapsus uteri, operations for fistule, and other somewhat less important operations upon the external genitals. Every procedure is described in the same clear and detailed manner. The descriptions, however, vary greatly in quality. The author is evidently quite in his element in his account of amputation of the cervix, of trachelorrhaphy, and of ruptured perineum. On the other hand, the sections on supra-vaginal hysterectomy, on Porro's operation, and on extra-uterine pregnancy are very far behind those on ovariectomy. Mr. Doran adds little to our knowledge of these operations. The operations for the relief of ectopic vesicæ are indifferently dealt with, but the subject, perhaps, scarcely comes under the scope of the present handbook.

We hope that the author is not serious when he states that accidental wounds of the intestine "must be sewn up by a continuous silk suture" (p. 213).

As an example of literary style, Mr. Doran's book may well be taken as a model by the authors of medical manuals. Few medical writers can lay claim to the easy, polished, and graphic style in which Mr. Doran communicates what he has to say. Here and there in the present volume a humorous passage has crept in, and forms an agreeable variation to the studied gloom of the ordinary handbook.

Even Mr. Doran, however, is liable to an occasional involved passage. For example, on page 9 we read: "Sometimes the finger pulls down the hymen as it is withdrawn, then, on inspection, that structure will be discovered." And, again, on page 54: "The aim of this part of the process is not to push the uterus somewhere for the feat of getting it within reach of the hand, nor to find out where it lies by forcing it into a situation where it did not lie before the hand disturbed it." An occasional expression, such as "retained menstruation," may be objected to, and we hope that the word "soakage" (p. 137) will not become classical English. The book contains very few printer's errors; one or two of these inevitable slips lead to confusion. Thus, in speaking of the abdominal incision in ovariectomy, the author is made to say (p. 202): "In an ordinary case the fascia transversalis and subperitoneal fat are reorganised and divided."

The woodcuts that illustrate the work are excellent. There are no fewer than 167, and all are well executed and well selected.

On the whole, this handbook can claim to be without a rival as a guide to the chief gynecological operations. It meets a decided want, and it meets it admirably. It is a credit to English surgery, and is a book that, while it must be essential to the specialist, should be read by every student of gynecology and by every practitioner of surgery.

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLIMATOLOGICAL STUDY OF PHTHISIS IN PENNSYLVANIA. By WILLIAM PEPPER, M.D., LL.D. Reprinted from the *New York Medical Journal*, December, 1886.

This brochure was the Presidential address at the third annual meeting of the American Climatological Association held at Philadelphia, May 10th and 11th, 1886. It is the fruit of a collective investigation undertaken by Professor PEPPER himself. He drew up a circular after the model of the one issued some years ago by Professor Bowditch in making a like inquiry in Massachusetts. In this comprehensive series of questions it was asked whether special portions of towns or districts or particular houses were more apt to be affected. The circular was sent to over 650 practitioners, and 120 replies were received. The report consists of an analysis of these replies. It is written in a condensed style, and cannot readily be epitomised. A few points of special interest may be referred to.

In regard to the influence of elevation, we find the following passage: "It will be observed at once that those portions of the State where phthisis is rarest are the most elevated, having a general altitude of 1,500 to 2,000, or, better still, of 2,000 to 3,000 feet;

while in proportion as we enter districts of lower general altitude, we find correspondingly increasing rates of mortality from consumption." Some general correspondence is noted between areas of great rainfall and of large mortality from consumption. Large areas of standing pine and hemlock correspond pretty closely with the most favourable climatic conditions and with the greatest immunity from consumption. To the question, "Is any part of the town liable to the prevalence of consumption?" 86 negative replies were received, and 8 affirmatives. After giving the details of the affirmative answers Dr. Pepper goes on to say: "It will thus be seen that the vast majority of my correspondents deny the existence of any centre in their town where consumption is specially prevalent, but that in a few instances where such special localised prevalence is asserted to exist the local conditions are those of dampness, bad drainage, and excessive soil moisture, which are generally believed to favour the development of the disease. It is evident, however, that unless continued inquiries which I hope to make shall elicit additional information at variance with the general tenour of the replies thus far received, it must be conceded that the evidence available does not point to excessive soil moisture as the main causal condition of consumption in this State." Ten replies mention individual houses where consumption has been specially frequent. Forty-five affirmative replies were given to the question, "Have you any evidence in support of or against the contagious or infectious character of consumption?" From the terms of the question an "affirmative reply" would only mean that evidence was forthcoming either for or against. From the context, however, it may be inferred that an affirmative reply means that there was evidence in support of the contagiousness of the disease.

A relatively impure water supply also appeared to count for something in augmenting the mortality of certain districts from phthisis. This collective investigation is of very great value; but the inquiry must be extended to many districts before general conclusions can be drawn.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS, IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

SALVATOR MINERAL WATER.

A MINERAL water, containing lithia in combination with alkalis and an abundance of free carbonic acid gas, has an obviously useful place in the pharmacopœia and dietary lists. According to the analysis of Professor Ballo, the Salvator water has as its active ingredients carbonate of lithia and carbonate of magnesia. Clinically, Professor Bamberger, of Vienna, has obtained very satisfactory results with it in cases of catarrhal affection of the kidney and bladder; and Professor Benedikt speaks highly of its use in cases of gout and of the uric acid diathesis. Similarly high testimony as to its recently tested uses in various renal, hepatic, and vesical disorders is borne by Von Nussbaum, Moleschott, Cantani, Von Hebra, Spaeth, Von Dittel, and other physicians of European reputation.

AUTOMATIC MEDICINE DELIVERY BOXES.

SIR,—The remarks contained in Sir Dyce Duckworth's address, which has been widely published, have apparently led many people to believe that he referred to our firm when speaking of the use of automatic delivery boxes for supplying medicines to the public; and many of our competitors have not hesitated to make use of such a supposition, through their representatives, to our detriment. We take this opportunity to positively deny that we are in any way directly or indirectly responsible for the use of the automatic medicine delivery boxes to which he refers. The articles so delivered are not of our manufacture, nor are we the manufacturers' agents.

The profession and trade are well aware that in our whole course of business we have been strictly loyal to the medical profession, and that we do not aim to supply goods directly to the public; nor do we advertise in public periodicals, but confine our advertisements to those journals that circulate amongst the medical profession and chemists, while those who have attempted to trade upon this incident to our injury, endeavour to "straddle the fence, and serve both the profession and the public.—We are, etc.,

BURROUGHS, WELLCOME AND CO.
Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., October 17th.

ACCIDENT TO A MEDICAL MAN.—We regret to hear that Dr. Blakiston, of Shrewsbury, who was a few days since out for a few hours' shooting with Mr. Harries, jun., of the same town, was shot in the back, the gun carried by Mr. Harries having accidentally gone off. The injured gentleman was at once conveyed to the infirmary, where, according to the latest report received, he lay in a precarious condition.