

part of this Journal. We believe that we could not promote the grand question of Medical Reform in a more effectual manner, than by devoting especial attention, and much space, to the proceedings of the various medical associations of the United Kingdom. Our report of the meeting of the North of England Association, at Carlisle, has been unavoidably curtailed, in order to make room for Mr. Warburton's long-promised Bill on the medical profession. We do not offer any comments on this Bill, nor shall we for some time; because it is desirable that the Bill should be in the hands of all those who are competent judges of its merits, and receive a cool, dispassionate consideration, before we pass any judgment upon a matter of such grave import. Our first object is to give publicity to Mr. Warburton's Bill; and this we are enabled to do with effect, for within two or three days after its appearance in the pages of this Journal, the Bill will be placed in the hands of more than twelve hundred medical practitioners throughout England. The numerous promises of literary support which we have already received from distinguished members of the profession in the metropolis, and in all parts of England, encourage us to hope that, in point of science, the *PROVINCIAL JOURNAL* will not be inferior to any of its rivals. On the other hand, our advertising sheet indicates the favourable light in which our undertaking has been viewed by the commercial world. Although we have had but a few days of preparation, and have been compelled to defer our publication until after the opening of the medical schools, yet we have received as many advertisements (in proportion to the quantity of letter-press) for our first number, as the most popular Medical Journal of the present day, after seventeen years of existence. This is a circumstance, we believe, unparalleled in the history of periodical publications.

An Atlas of Plates, illustrative of the Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine and Surgery, with descriptive Letterpress. By FRANCIS H. RAMSBOTHAM, M.D. Parts I. to IX. London: Churchill. 1840.

WE feel pleasure in being able to echo the expressions of approbation with which the publication of Dr. Ramsbotham's Atlas has been received, by all grades and complexions of the medical press. The objects of this popular work—the excellence of the plates by which it is illustrated—the concise, yet clear, descriptions of the editor—and last, though not least, the extraordinary cheap price at which the publisher offers it for sale—are all calculated to diffuse, in a very extended manner, a knowledge of obstetric medicine, and to render the "Atlas" a standard work among students and junior practitioners throughout all parts of the British Empire. The Editor may, with justice, say, "Ex monumentum ære, &c.," for, although there be not much in its composition, nor can it expect to escape the

"Annuorum series et fuga temporum,"

yet we venture to predict that it will continue to be employed as the text-book of midwifery, by all classes of students, for years to come.

Nine parts of the Atlas have already appeared; each

part contains thirty-two pages of letterpress, and six engravings on steel, besides occasional woodcuts, which are very beautifully executed; the price of each is only one shilling and six pence. It is, therefore, manifest that, in order to remunerate the publisher for his spirited undertaking, the sale of the present work must be very extensive; and we recommend it, accordingly, to the attention of our readers, not only because we are desirous of encouraging cheap works, when they are good, but because we could not conscientiously point out any elementary work on the practice of midwifery, which unites within itself so many of the characters of a sound and practical treatise.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases peculiar to Women, illustrated by Cases, &c. By SAMUEL ASHWELL, M.D. Part I. London: Highley. 1840. 8vo. pp. 208.

THROUGH a curious coincidence the first three works which we received for review were written by three obstetric physicians, Drs. Ramsbotham, Ashwell, and Waller. An august example has, it appears, produced an extraordinary degree of activity in the matrimonial world; and the hands of the accoucheurs are, literally speaking, full of business. *Tant mieux* for Messrs. the accoucheurs; if trade in other matters be dull, there is one at least which flourishes, even in the desert.

The treatise of Dr. Ashwell on the diseases peculiar to women will, when finished, fill up an hiatus in English medical literature. Although we possess many valuable single essays on female diseases, we do not remember any complete practical book on the subject, with the exception of a recent one by Dr. Churchill of Dublin. We therefore hail the appearance of Dr. Ashwell's treatise with pleasure; and we feel reason to believe, both from the specimen now before us—from the great opportunities which Dr. Ashwell's position affords him of observing female complaints—and from the high practical character of the school with which he is connected, that the treatise will be received in a very favourable manner by all classes of the profession.

"My aim" (says Dr. Ashwell) "has been to produce a treatise on female diseases, so true, simple, and practical, that it may form a safe and efficient guide to the elucidation and curative treatment of many, at least, of these intricate, rapidly-progressing and dangerous maladies. I have endeavoured to write in a plain and perspicuous style; with scrupulous accuracy as to facts; and in reference to opinions and treatment, nothing is recommended of the practical value of which I am not myself convinced."

We have carefully perused Dr. Ashwell's treatise, and can certify that the practical tendency to which the author alludes in the preceding passage, forms its characteristic feature. Numerous cases are narrated throughout, and many formulæ of remedies are appended to the various chapters, for the benefit of "young practitioners, and older men with too many demands on their time nicely to test the value, and accurately to determine, the doses and other important conditions on which the efficient use of remedies so much depends."

Dr. Ashwell's work will consist of three parts: the first part is devoted to the functional diseases of the uterine system; the second part will contain an account of organic diseases; and in the third, or concluding part, will be comprised the affections of the pregnant and puerperal states.

The following subjects are discussed in the first part, viz.

—Chlorosis, amenorrhœa, vicarious menstruation, dysmenorrhœa, menorrhagia, leucorrhœa, and the disorders attending the decline of menstruation. We cannot, on the present occasion, lay before our readers an analysis of any of the chapters in which these subjects are successively examined; but we undertake to do so in a future number, and in the mean time content ourselves with certifying, in general terms, to the practical excellency of Dr. Ashwell's treatise.

A Practical Treatise on the Function and Diseases of the Unimpregnated Womb. Illustrated by Plates, &c. By CHARLES WALLER, M.D. London: 1840. Churchill, 8vo. pp. 200.

THE greater portion of the contents of this volume has already appeared in the form of lectures, in the pages of a contemporary Journal. Dr. Waller has been induced to collect his lectures together, and publish them in the more imposing form of a "book." We have misgivings of the expediency of this proceeding. The lectures were sufficiently instructive for the junior pupils of a second-rate school; but when dished up as a "practical treatise," they produce very nearly the same effect as the "*crambe repetita*" of the Roman poet. The whole concern, in fact, is most "lame and impotent." Brevity is occasionally an excellent quality, because the less one has of a bad thing the better; but assuredly the most important parts of our "better halves" deserve more attention than could be bestowed upon them in 200 scanty pages of common-place professorial twaddle.

ON THE TREATMENT OF STRABISMUS BY THE DIVISION OF THE MUSCLES OF THE EYE.

BY P. BENNETT LUCAS,

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THE time which has elapsed since I introduced into this country the operation for convergent strabismus, by dividing the tendon of the internal rectus muscle, and the numerous cases since that operation which have fallen under my notice, warrant me in affirming that this unsightly deformity is, in the majority of instances, now under the absolute control of surgical skill.

Before strabismus was attempted to be cured by the operation of dividing the tendon of the muscle which gave the eye the wrong direction, a variety of methods of treatment was suggested and put into execution. By some of these the strabismus was occasionally cured; by others it was only alleviated; but the failures which attended the best-directed intentions of the practitioner were, beyond all comparison, the most numerous.

Notwithstanding that the new operation has been attended with the happiest results in those cases to which it is applicable, yet it would be injudicious to assert that it ought to supersede all other methods of treatment,—nay, in some cases the operation will be unattended with benefit; and, in others, the strabismus can be cured by milder means.

I have, in a treatise lately published,* endeavoured to point out those cases of strabismus in which the operation will prove successful, from those in which its performance will be unattended with much benefit, or in which it is altogether inadmissible; and have likewise given cases where the best results have followed the administration of purgative medicines, the detraction of blood, and other antiphlogistic measures, as well as the steady perseverance in the use of mechanical contrivances calculated to give the eye its proper direction.

* A Practical Treatise on the Cure of Strabismus by Operation, and by milder Treatment. S. Highley, Fleet-street.

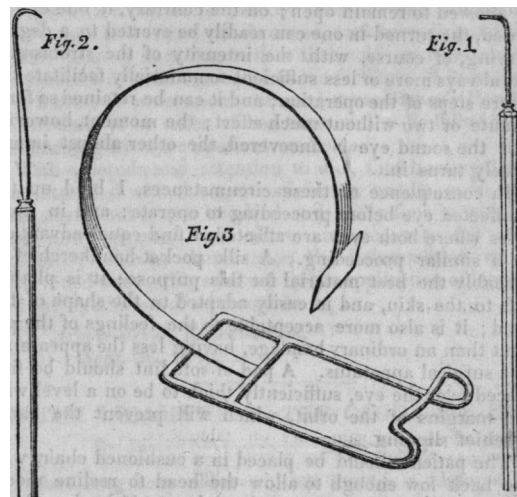
As the immediate object of this paper, however, is to describe the method I have adopted in the performance of the operation for the division of the inner rectus muscle, it would be foreign to this purpose, and would occupy too much space, to enter into other particulars connected with strabismus.

The division of the tendons of muscles in the extremities and elsewhere is simple, because all the surgeon has to do is to insert a sharp instrument horizontally between the skin and the tendon, or behind the tendon, and, by altering its position, to make the desired section; then, by turning the instrument again horizontally, to withdraw it by the same orifice through which it was introduced, without making any additional wound of the tegumentary membrane. Here, then, is a simple and easy operation, and one to which the English surgeon has been long accustomed, although recommended for a different purpose, viz., the section of the saphena vein for the cure of a varicose condition of its radicles. But when the division of the tendinous insertions of the ocular muscles is proposed to be executed, it is a far different matter; requiring, in the first place, a free incision of the skin of the eye, or the tunica conjunctiva, which covers them; in the second, a division of the sub-conjunctival cellular tissue; in the third, a division of the sub-conjunctival and sub-muscular fasciæ, to an extent varying with circumstances, and, above all, with a cautious regard to the safety of the eye-ball, which is sensitive, moveable, and into the composition of the fibrous case of which the tendons themselves actually enter.

It is these circumstances which render the operation of dividing the tendons of the ocular muscles difficult, and which call for more steadiness, delicacy, and address upon the part of the operator, than when engaged in the division of the tendons of other muscles.

With these difficulties to encounter, however, the operation can readily be performed, provided there is no complication of instruments, no busy fingers of many assistants, and no haste to do the thing quickly, as must always be the case when ten or a dozen patients are collected together, and are cut against time!

The only instruments I employ in this operation are, a fine sharp hook, a blunt hook, and a pair of scissors.



The sharp hook (*fig. 2.*) is for the purpose of seizing the tunica conjunctiva, and raising this membrane from the subjacent parts, in order to make the necessary incision of it. With the pair of sharp-pointed scissors I make the incision of the conjunctiva, and also divide the tendon of the muscle, and the other parts which may require to be divided, on account of retaining the eye in the improper direction. The blunt hook (*fig. 1.*) is for the purpose of passing beneath the tendon of the muscle; and is admirably calculated to protect the globe of the eye, to fix it and the muscle at the time of