

regard to the placental transmission of disease the author says that it would seem that under the influence of infection the epithelial coat of the chorion loses its impermeability, so that bacteria may pass directly through it, such a result leading to the suggestion that it is through bacterial action that the placenta surrenders its protection function and permits the osmosis of deleterious substances. In the treatment of placenta previa, version by Braxton Hicks' method and incomplete delivery is generally recommended as the safest procedure, and not the performance of Cesarean section, which is being quite extensively advocated at the present time by some writers.

The recent theories with regard to the part taken by the liver in the production of puerperal eclampsia are given at some length. The author says that the theory of the hepatic origin of puerperal eclampsia will afford ample explanation for those fulgurant cases not accompanied by albuminuria, and will also open up a new field in the study of the grave affection of pregnancy hitherto but little understood.

The lines of treatment recommended are conservative and generally in accordance with modern teaching. References are freely presented throughout the book to writings which are often of great advantage and help in the study of a special branch of the subject. The volume is well published, and will readily find a place among the best of the modern books on obstetrics.

*The American Illustrated Medical Dictionary.*

For Practitioners and Students. A Complete Dictionary of the terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, and the kindred branches. By W. A. NEWMAN DORLAND, A.M., M.D., editor of the "American Pocket Medical Dictionary." Second edition, revised. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1901.

A first edition of this work was issued in October, 1900. The avowed object of the author has been to furnish in a volume of convenient size an up-to-date dictionary, sufficiently full for the requirements of all classes of medical men, or, in other words, to give a maximum of matter in a minimum of space. This object has been secured by the use of a large page, thin paper, and a flexible leather binding.

In this edition the book has been carefully revised. The author has also added upward of 100 important new terms that have appeared in medical literature during the past few months. Among them appear "Anopheles," "Cryosecopy," "Johimbin," "Hemolysin," "Hedonal," "Sacrectomy."

We have already commented favorably on the first edition of this work, which represents a high degree of excellence in the art of book making. The full-page plates, of which there are many, are particularly commendable. This edition must be regarded as an improvement on the first. We note a tendency to adopt the reformed spell-

ing: "Physiologic," rather than "physiological"; "hemorrhage," rather than "hæmorrhage," etc. We confess to a certain hesitation in accepting all the consequences to which such a tendency logically leads.

*A Laboratory Handbook of Physiologic Chemistry and Urine Examination.* By CHARLES G. L. WOLF, M.D., Instructor in Physiologic Chemistry, Cornell University Medical College, New York. 12mo volume of 190 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1901.

This volume cannot be considered as a textbook or laboratory handbook of physiological chemistry, because it does not deal with this subject in a scientific manner.

The author begins with a rather unsatisfactory treatise on proteids, carbohydrates and fats. Out of the entire field of physiological chemistry only a few secretions and fluids of the body are considered, and a disproportionately large portion of the book is devoted to urine. This subject occupies 120 of the 190 pages of the book. These pages are taken up mainly by technical processes, such as the making of a decinormal solution, which belong more properly to textbooks on quantitative analysis. The apparent purpose of this work is as a guide to clinical diagnoses. Its existence is, however, unnecessary, as it falls so far below the standard of other books written exactly for this purpose, such as von Jaksch's "Klinische Diagnose," Kruger's "Medicinische Chemie," Charles Simon's "Clinical Diagnosis."

*A Textbook of Pharmacology.* Including Therapeutics, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, Prescription Writing, Toxicology, etc. By TORALD SOULMAN, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Materia Medica, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Royal octavo volume of 880 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1901.

This work aims to furnish, in a manner suited for reference and study, a scientific discussion and definite conception of the action of drugs, as well as their derivation, composition, strength and dose.

Though entitled a textbook of pharmacology, the book is too profusely padded with other subjects to be of use as a student's textbook. The author does not content himself with the description of the action of drugs, but fills his book with even such details of chemical manipulation as the folding of a filter paper and with physical definitions such as that of specific gravity. As a reference book it is not complete enough on any one of the subjects treated.

When the author transforms this book, which he intends as a textbook of pharmacology, into a sort of encyclopedia of allied subjects, he departs from the plan so aptly and admirably carried out by the master of our science, Schmiedeberg, in his as yet unequalled textbook of pharmacology.