

Professional Review.

"SURGICAL TECHNICS."

WE have received from Messrs. J. Wright and Company, Bristol, a copy of "Surgical Technics," by Mr. K. W. Monsarrat, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., assistant surgeon to the Liverpool Cancer Hospital, price 3/- net. The book is intended primarily for medical men, but nurses will obtain from it an insight into the principles which are the basis of scientific surgery and nursing, and much of the information it contains will be of value to the intelligent nurse.

PRINCIPLES.

The author insists at the outset on the observance of detailed care as a means towards a definite scientific end. "Once our minds have grasped and accepted principles, we cannot honestly do less than follow them out to their full logical extent." The nurse, as well as the surgeon must "grasp principles," if her nursing is ever to be more than mechanical, and her profession to be the worthy handmaid of scientific surgery. She may with advantage emulate the enthusiasm of the surgeon as expressed in the following sentence.

THE OBLIGATION OF THE SURGEON TO HIS WOUNDS.

As his acquaintance with them improves the enthusiasm of their study rises; they are, if we may be permitted the expression, most satisfactory individuals to deal with, they always meet one half way, and their behaviour is ever both rational and sympathetic. To the surgeons and nurses who take this view of their work, success is we think assured.

PERSONAL ASEPSIS.

The chapter upon this subject is one equally valuable to doctors and nurses. The *duty* of absolute strict surgical cleanliness, as an obligation imperative upon all surgical nurses, cannot be too often or too strenuously insisted on. The remarks on the charge of the patient

BEFORE AND AFTER OPERATION.

are very valuable, and quite free from technical language, so as to be comprehensible even to the newest probationer. One finds in them a recognition of the value of the services of nurses, and the willingness of the surgeon to acknowledge this when once he has found "ground for confidence." This is an attitude of mind which nurses who perform their work thoroughly will appreciate. A blind belief expressed in everything and everybody does not assuredly elicit the best results. The chapters dealing with

THE OPERATION

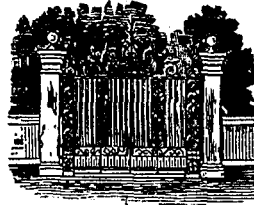
itself will well repay careful study, and are quite as useful to nurses as to students.

THE APPENDIX.

The appendix is directly devoted to nurses, and to their special duties in the theatre. We think that it is somewhat of a mistake to detail these duties so particularly. The matron or theatre sister should be held responsible for their due performance, and the best result will probably be attained if she has freedom to organize her subordinates in her own way. One thing to which we take exception also is the instruction to cleanse mackintoshes, after operating by "removing blood, etc., with tow." Tow is so entirely non-absorbent, that this advice seems scarcely happy. This, however, is a very small flaw in a book which is full of good things.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



At last women who frequent the Ladies' Gallery in the House of Commons are going to make an effort to have the grille removed. It is almost incredible that women have submitted to this obsolete cage so long, but then the womenkind of Members of Parliament, as

a rule, do not take a very self-respecting attitude—of course, there are brilliant exceptions—but "loaves and fishes" prove too satisfying for the majority. A requisition, signed by ladies with political tendencies, is to be circulated among members, declaring that the grating seriously interferes with their comfort and convenience, and that they can hear with difficulty and see hardly at all. This should remove the fallacy that political women—like the modest violet—prefer to bloom unseen.

The London School Board have decided that one of the two medical practitioners to be appointed to examine defective children shall be a woman.

China was one of the few nations which did not depute women delegates to attend the Congress of the International Council of Women at Chicago in 1893; but Li Hung Chang's visit to England has, it would seem, done something to loosen the bonds of Chinese women. When in England his Excellency was informed of the International Congress of Women which, according to the then existing arrangements, was to be held during this summer. He has since his return been making inquiries through the Chinese Embassy in London as to the precise date of the Congress, and finding it has been unavoidably postponed until the July of 1899, he has promised that at least one and probably more Chinese ladies shall attend the Congress and voice the wishes of the women of China.

The Society for the Extension of University Teaching for the first time will hold its summer meetings in London from May 30th to June 11th, and the delegates will not only be provided with food for the mind, but are to be much entertained. There is to be a reception at the Mansion House by the invitation of the Lord and Lady Mayoress. The Bishop of London and Mrs. Creighton have issued invitations for a garden party at Fulham Palace, and the Duchess of Devonshire is to entertain the members at a garden party at Devonshire House. Mrs. Wynford Philipps has invited the members to an "At Home" at the Grosvenor-crescent Club and Institute, at which Sir John Lubbock is to be present and will speak of the work of the visitors.

The trial of Mrs. Nicholls for the manslaughter of poor Jane Popejoy is at length over. Seven years penal servitude is a heavy penalty, and one is fain to compassionate any one who has to undergo it. When one ponders also upon the inexorable law of hereditary taint one wonders how far Mrs. Nicholls is responsible for her sins. At the same time the public must be safeguarded, and having regard to the interests of defenceless servants, we cannot consider the sentence too severe.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)