in those exigencies of private practice which are often worrying and provocative of temporary anxiety, but which have little or no bearing on the great general principles—the fundamental truths—of the healing art. Dr. Latham, a well known and much honoured authority on medical education in his day, has warned us to beware of those medical treatises which are possibly intended as much for the lay as the professional reader. Perhaps the warning might not be altogether out of place in the present instance. The effort to emphasise and perpetuate the distinction between functional and structural disease is contrary to all the scientific aspirations of our day, and is one from which certainly no good can come—let us hope that no actual evil may arise from it. The attempt to consider many of the diseases treated of in the book as mere derangements of functions as apart from structural changes seems to us to be continually breaking down—in fact, no real demarcation can be made out. When, in a work dealing with functional diseases *per se*, we continually meet with phrases and terms, such as, “inflammatory processes,” “principal lesions,” “local anæmia,” “chronic catarrh of the tubes,” “fluxionary hyperæmia,” “catarrhal expectoration,” “atheromatous degeneration in the aorta and coronary arteries,” “laryngeal growths,” “catarrhal swellings,” &c., we are almost of necessity forced to this conclusion. No man, who has frequent opportunities of testing his practice in the fierce light of the *post-mortem* room, is inclined to believe much in the extensive prevalence of merely functional disease, and this is a test which is largely beyond the power of the private practitioner, however great his practice may be. As a scientific work the book entirely fails. The utility of the volume consists in the numerous hints as to treatment which it contains.

A Practical Text-Book of the Diseases of Women. By ARTHUR H. N. LEWERS, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond., Assistant Obstetric Physician to the London Hospital; Examiner in Midwifery and Diseases of Women to the Society of Apothecaries of London, &c. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.

THIS volume is one of Lewis's Practical Series, and, on the whole, we can cordially commend it as a safe practical guide on the subject of Diseases of Women, and well suited to the needs of the student.

To our idea its value would, in many instances, have been enhanced if the author had referred to views which are held

other than those he has adopted, and methods of treatment other than those advocated by himself. For example, in his description of *Secondary Operations for Rupture of the Perineum*, no mention is made of Lawson Tait's operation, which, in our opinion, is a far preferable one to those he describes, and one which gives the best possible results. So, too, in his instructions as to the use of pessaries for retroversion and retroflexion, the position which he advocates as the one in which the pessary should be introduced and worn is not the one most commonly taught and practised, and yet there is not a word to imply that any difference exists in opinion and practice on the subject. We notice as particularly good the chapters on the mode of investigating cases, on diseases of the Fallopian tubes, and on ovariectomy. The book is fully and well illustrated, the type is clear, and there is a good index, but the stitching of the volume is wretched.

On Some of the Varieties of Peripheral Paralysis. By DAVID DRUMMOND, M.D., Physician and Pathologist to the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: J. M. Carr. 1888.

DR. DRUMMOND'S work deals with a department of neurological science, which has been gradually, during the past seven or eight years, claiming a greater and greater share of the physician's attention. Since the publication of *Buzzard's Harveian Lectures* in 1885, no work has appeared in this country dealing with this important class of nervous diseases, if we except the excellent description of peripheral lesions given in Dr. Gower's last published volume of *Diseases of the Nervous System*.

The subject is one of great interest and importance, and the author is to be congratulated upon the clear and interesting way in which he deals with it. "Alcoholic Paralysis," "Progressive Multiple Neuritis," "Lead Neuritis," and "Brachial Neuritis," are taken up and discussed, illustrative cases being quoted in each instance, while the pathology of the lesions is dealt with, though somewhat more briefly than could have been desired. An excellent and typical illustration shows a case of alcoholic paralysis. There is also a plate representing the pathological lesions found in some of the nerves, which illustrate the author's personal observations.

The volume is one which we would strongly recommend to all physicians.