

*Text-Book of Modern Midwifery.* By RODNEY GLISAN, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in the Willamette University, and late President of the Oregon State Medical Society. Philadelphia: Presley Blakiston: 1881.

WE learn from the preface that the author's desire is that his book should supplant those of Leishman, Playfair, Cazeaux, and Schroeder, which are at present used by the American student, and also that it "shall more thoroughly represent American obstetric practice." After looking through it pretty carefully, we see no reason why it should be preferred to the books mentioned. Indeed, so frequently are these and other authors referred to and quoted, that we should think the American student will still make use of one or other of their books in preference to the one before us, the style of which may be roughly said to be all through its pages as follows:—"On this disputed point we find Drs A., B., C., and D. supporting the positive side and saying so and so, while E., F., G., and H. are certain that the truth of the matter lies on the negative side." The title, too, might be well altered to "A Modern Text-Book of Midwifery," as a perusal of the chapters on the Mechanism of Labour, on Rupture of the Uterus, and on Deformities of the Pelvis and the Mechanism of Labour in such cases, will convince any one that the title of modern midwifery is a misnomer. How far the author has succeeded in the latter of his intentions, representing American practice, we are unable to say, but we have not noticed anything strikingly at variance with the subject matter of European text-books, except, perhaps, one or two passages like the following, which remind one faintly of Mark Twain and other American humorists. After likening spermatozoa to "those ethereal wanderers, the comets, that at long intervals of time show themselves to our astonished gaze," he warns his readers that it is not in size that the likeness lies, and says, "Although insignificant in size, they are capable of more good or evil, as the case may be, to the human race than all the comets that ever flashed through universal space," and so on, with some equally out-of-place remarks about their "being allowed to range the sacred precincts of virginity in a wicked and unlawful manner." Then, again, speaking of resistant hymen, he says, "The newly-married man, however, generally manages to get along under these circumstances without surgical assistance." Looking at the book in detail, it is one that readily lends itself to criticism and correction; but as we do not for a minute expect that the work will ever be used by half a dozen men in this country, it is needless to pursue the matter further.