

cise great care *not* to humour peculiar whims." Possibly we must accept the American "pathologic" and "anatomic" for "pathological" and "anatomical," but to our ears these words are inharmonious. We do not know what the author means by "Terrapin" watering places, unless this is a blundering reference to Oertel's "Terrain-Curorte." Once or twice reference is made to what are called "closed institutions," which we can only guess to be private hospitals.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

FOREIGN HEALTH RESORTS.

Evian.—Dr. BERGOUIGNAN, in his book on treatment at Evian,¹ shows us at once the extreme opinion he holds as to the value of spa treatment. Thus, according to him, "the most powerful agents that can be employed in therapeutics against chronic complaints and diatheses are mineral waters. Bordeu wrote, upwards of a hundred years ago: 'I consider every complaint incurable which has not yielded to the application of mineral waters,' and this opinion has been since then almost universally adopted." We cannot say we think this opinion has been almost universally adopted in England or is ever likely to be, though we believe that great benefit is to be derived in many pathological conditions from treatment by health resorts and mineral waters. That we believe is undeniable, and is likely to be more and more generally acknowledged. Evian-les-Bains, in the French department of Haute Savoie, is situated at an altitude of about 1,350 ft. above sea level on the centre of the southern shore of the Lake of Geneva, facing Lausanne on the opposite (Swiss) shore. Its name—Roman, Aquianum—shows that its waters have been long known. They have a temperature of 53° F., are clear, limpid, and somewhat aerated, and yield only 0.3 gram of solid constituents by evaporation per litre. Naturally the "ionic" theory is called up to account for the therapeutic qualities of the waters of Evian, as of those of the whole class of weakly-mineralized mineral waters. Whatever the correct scientific explanation may be, it is sufficiently attested that a course of treatment at Evian is useful in many conditions of ill-health. Dr. Bergouignan explains especially the diuretic action of the waters and their indications in arterio-sclerosis and biliary, urinary, and metabolic affections.

Eaux-Bonnes.—Dr. LÉON LERICHE's medical studies on Eaux-Bonnes² give a good idea of the main indications of this well-known Pyrenean sulphur spa. Eaux-Bonnes is chiefly resorted to for chronic affections of the respiratory organs, and many patients with pulmonary tuberculosis go there, so that some talk of the danger of infection has got about. This fear is groundless, as Dr. Leriche shows, for the hygienic arrangements are excellent, and rooms are regularly disinfected when visitors leave. Professor Landouzy in his preface even goes so far as to declare that Eaux-Bonnes has attained to his ideal of 1893, when he said, "To-morrow the health resorts for consumptives will be the places where one will be best protected from the contagion of tuberculosis, just as already the lying-in hospitals offer the surest guarantee against puerperal fever." There can likewise be no doubt that to minimize the danger of tuberculous infection the "soil" must be considered and the human organism must be maintained in as healthy and vigorous a condition as possible.

Château Guyon.—Dr. BONNET's monograph on Château Guyon³ deals with the history, development, mineral waters, and other resources of this health resort, which has a pleasant situation in the Auvergne, about 1,300 ft. above sea level. Much of the work is devoted to a consideration of the indications and contraindications of the mineral waters and to physiological experiments which have been carried out with the object of obtaining further information regarding their action. Functional atonic conditions of the digestive organs are much treated at Château Guyon, and as English patients

occasionally go there medical men in this country may wish to hear the opinion of a local practitioner on the value and indications of the spa treatment. Dr. Bonnet's work, though written in French, may therefore find some place in England.

Austria-Hungary.—Dr. LABAT's little book⁴ on the *Climate and Mineral Waters of Austria-Hungary* is a worthy successor to his similar publications on the climates and mineral waters of Germany, Spain, Italy, and England. This well-known author on balneotherapeutic subjects has travelled much and has visited the health resorts about which he writes. Amongst the places specially dealt with in the present work are Meran, Gastein, Gleichenberg, the neighbourhoods of Vienna and Buda-Pesth, Pystjan, Trenczin, Mehadia, and, of course, the famous Bohemian spas Carlsbad, Marienbad, Franzenbad, and Teplitz-Schoenau. Labat gives the first place in Europe to Bohemia for purgative spa treatment, to Hungary for purgative "bitter waters." He considers that the pure sulphur waters of the Pyrenees should rank above the compound sulphur waters of Austria, and he naturally points out that there are no pure alkaline waters in Austria-Hungary to be compared with the famous French ones (Vichy and Vals). The book is concisely written and contains much which might interest English medical men, especially those who have themselves visited foreign health resorts.

BRITISH HEALTH RESORTS.

In *Buxton: Its Waters, Baths, and Accessory Methods of Treatment*,⁵ Drs. ARMSTRONG and HARBURN have discussed the therapeutic methods employed at the well-known Derbyshire health resort in the treatment of gouty and other conditions for which patients are sent there. In regard to accessory treatment the authors write:

No waters, however effective, can be used with advantage in every case; nor are any so omnipotent that their prescribers can afford to reject the aid of the resources of science and of progress. This is, no doubt, very true; but that it should be thought necessary to make any statement so obvious is a curious proof of the extravagances into which some writers on mineral waters have indulged.

Dr. W. BOWEN-DAVIES, in *Llandrindod Wells as a Health Resort*,⁶ points out the therapeutic qualities of the best known of the Central Wales group of health resorts. This much-frequented place has bracing air and mineral waters, about which a good deal has already been written. It certainly deserves its growing popularity, yet we cannot quite understand the quotation which the author has placed at the commencement of his address. However much we may have reason to be grateful for the healthfulness of English climates, surely we cannot admit that within the narrow limits of Great Britain every kind of climate which can be of use to any variety of invalid is to be found.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

A New Interrupter.—The Carpentier-Gaiffe patent platinum interrupter, which has been brought out by the Medical Supply Association, 228, Gray's Inn Road, is intended for the use of radiographers. In it the spring common to the majority of interrupters is abolished, the weight of the hammer greatly reduced, and its resistance so modified that a full 10 in. spark can, according to the makers, be produced by two cells of four volts. The tension of the hammer, moreover, can be adjusted at will. A practical radiographer who has examined it upon our behalf states that it is a good and practical invention, and that, whereas, with ordinary hammer breaks, the platinum points are so firmly pressed together that they get roughened

¹ *Climat et Eaux Minérales d'Autriche-Hongrie.* [Climate and Mineral Waters of Austria-Hungary]. By Dr. A. Labat. Paris: J. B. Baillière et Fils. 1903. (Demy 8vo, p. 92. Fr. 2.)

² *Etudes Médicales sur les Eaux-Bonnes.* [Medical Studies on Eaux-Bonnes.] By Dr. L. Leriche. Second edition. Barcelona: E. Richardon; Paris: P. Lamme et Cie. 1902. (Crown 8vo, pp. 123. Fr. 1.50.)

³ *Château Guyon (Puy de Dome).* Etude Médicale sur ses Eaux Thermales, Gazeuses et Polymétalliques [Château Guyon in the Department of Puy de Dome. Medical Study of its Thermal-gaseous and Polymetallic Waters]. By Dr. Saint-René Bonnet. Charleville: A. Anciaux. 1900. (Royal 8vo, pp. 170.) (The author offers to send a copy to any member of the Association interested so long as the stock lasts.)

⁴ *Buxton: Its Waters, Baths, and Accessory Methods of Treatment.* By W. Armstrong, M.R.C.S., J.P., and J. E. Harburn, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin. Bristol: John Wright and Co. 1903. (Crown 8vo, pp. 71. 6d.)

⁶ *Llandrindod Wells as a Health Resort.* An address by W. Bowen-Davies, L.R.C.P. Lond. London: The Health Resorts Bureau. (32mo, pp. 31.)