out the weary pages on vegetable diets with the details of their percentages of proteids, carbohydrates, etc., as predisposing causes. The pathology, course, progress, and mortality have all their due proportion allotted to them. The part on intercurrent diseases contains interesting details on the other animal parasites found in the island. Bilharzia haematobium is comparatively frequent, a point only recently ascertained, and one which should put observers on the track of this parasite in other West Indian islands. Taenia saginata and solium appear to be rare, owing probably to the vegetable-eating habits of the natives. Prophylaxis in a place like Porto Rico will, the commissioners think, be difficult; they lay down its common-sense principles, and leave it to the Government to organize.

The rapid appearance of new editions of a book is a very good gauge of its use and popularity; this holds good for the *Practical Study of Malaria*,[4] by STEPHENS and CHRISTOPHERS, which has reached its second edition within the year. In addition to descriptions and details of new parasites, two new chapters have been added, one on the Leishman-Donovan bodies, the other on spirillar fever. The chapters on the Leishman bodies give a very fair summary of our knowledge of this important subject up to date, though much remains to be done before a solution of the many problems can be expected. Schaudinn's recent work on halteridium is given in detail; it is strange that it has been so generally accepted though lacking confirmation; in fact, the cultivation experiments of Novy and Macneal—a point not noted in the present work—make it seem probable that Schaudinn was working with mixed infections; if this be confirmed then the former observer's work is misleading and fallacious. The authors state that it has been shown that the trypanosome of sleeping sickness found by Castellani is identical with the T. gambiense, but Plimmer's recent work on this subject would seem to prove that they are different. The book, as we stated in our review of the first edition, will be of the greatest use to students of tropical medicine, especially to those engaged in the practical side of the question. The space devoted to the study of mosquitos, namely, 16 chapters, seems excessive, for the classification of these insects is now a subject more for the entomologist proper than for the ordinary student of tropical medicine. Descriptions of the commoner parasitic worms and their eggs, of amoebae, and some other common protozoal parasites are not given. If these were added, and redundant parts cut down, then the value of a really excellent textbook would be greatly enhanced. Another point of importance would be the introduction of a much more extended bibliography; this is especially noticeable in the latter chapters of the book. Such an addition would prove very useful to the more advanced students desirous of following up any individual subject. The new coloured plates are a pleasing addition, and we can strongly recommend the book to students engaged in or beginning the study of tropical medicine.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

DR. GLAISTER has found it necessary to issue a second edition of his *Manual of Hygiene for Students and Nurses*.[5] The first edition was issued in 1897, and the book still retains much of the original form, though it has been revised and some additions have been made. It is well illustrated, and contains, though in simple form, a large amount of matter connected with personal and public health. It does not profess to rank with the larger textbooks now in use by those studying for the public health diplomas, but it meets the requirement of the medical student, for whom some elementary knowledge of public health is necessary. Judged from this point of view, perhaps the weakest part of the book is that dealing with infectious diseases, and in not a few other places the information given is not sufficiently precise to be of practical value. The chapter on microbes is also inadequate. House sanitation and personal hygiene appear to be the strong parts of the book.

That a fourth edition of Dr. FRANCIS VACHER'S *Food Inspectors' Handbook*[6] has been called for is sufficient guarantee of its acceptability. The book was first published in 1892, and at once became a popular book with sanitary inspectors. It sets out briefly and simply the chief facts respecting the diseases of animals, diseased and unsound meat, poultry, game, fish, fruit, vegetables and milk, and the main facts respecting adulteration of tea, coffee, condiments, spices, etc. There is also a useful chapter on statutory powers. The book is elementary and has been purposely kept short and simple.

Mr. ALBERT TAYLOR has issued a fourth edition of his well-known *Sanitary Inspectors' Handbook*,[7] which is intended to be a practical book of reference upon the duties of sanitary inspectors. The best parts of the book deal, as would be expected, with the occurrence and abatement of nuisances and the subject of drainage. The author has incorporated in his book a number of official orders and regulations, as well as numerous examples of the forms and certificates used in a public health department. It is difficult to make such a book interesting, but it certainly may be said that Mr. Taylor has improved his handbook, which is now one of the best of its kind and well deserves its popularity. Of course a book of this nature is open to criticisms as to many minor points, but on the whole the author has been successful in stating his case broadly without undue emphasis on his own particular views. We cordially commend the book for the purpose for which it is intended.

Mr. FRANK NOEL KEEN of the Middle Temple has collected together under the title of *Urban Police and Sanitary Legislation, 1904*,[8] a number of provisions in the Local Improvement Acts obtained by English Urban District Councils in the year 1904, after consideration by the Police and Sanitary Committee of the House of Commons. The idea of the book, the author states, was partly suggested by the Committee seeking to standardize all clauses which dealt with powers relating to police or sanitary regulations in order to serve in some measure as precedents for future legislation. The book also serves to show something of the lines upon which local legislation is proceeding in various directions. It is prefaced by a table of Acts. There is indication of increased legislation in these local Acts on behalf of a pure milk supply, and the prevention of the sale of tuberculous milk, the removal of trade refuse, etc., in the sanitary sections, and of course the control of tramways and electricity claim a large space in the general provisions. The book is a careful piece of work, and will prove useful to those desiring to study local legislation as it is being laid down to-day.

DIETETIC PREPARATIONS.

Alphozone.—The name "alphozone" has been given to disuccinyl peroxide ($COOH\ CH_2CH_2\ CO)_2\ O_2$, a new organic compound manufactured by Stearns and Co., and introduced to our notice by Messrs. Thomas Christy and Co., Old Swan Lane, Upper Thames Street, E.C. This substance is a white crystalline powder which dissolves in about sixty parts of water at ordinary temperatures with formation of succinic peracid by hydrolysis. Stronger solutions may be obtained if excess of the substance be kept in contact with water for some time, but in this case the greater solubility is due to a further hydrolysis taking place with formation of succinic acid and hydrogen peroxide. Alphozone is introduced as a non-toxic germicide and antiseptic; it is claimed to be as active as mercuric chloride and 75 times more so than carbolic acid. It can be used as a germicide in the ordinary way, and may also, it is said, be employed as an intestinal antiseptic. Solutions should be freshly made, since they deteriorate in germicidal powers on keeping, the hydrogen peroxide being far inferior to the mother substance or to the succinic peracid of the fresh solution. For internal use it is recommended to add 2 gr. in a half-tumblerful of water. This solution has an acid and not unpleasant taste. For local application 1 in 3,000 to 1 in 100 solutions may be employed, or a 5 per cent. dusting powder with talc or boric acid. As an ointment it may be dispensed with soft paraffin in the proportion of 8 gr. to 1 oz.

[4] *The Practical Study of Malaria and other Blood Parasites.* By J. W. W. Stephens, M.D.Camb., D.P.H., Walter Myers Lecturer in Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool, and S. R. Christophers, M.B.Vict., I.M.S., Members of the Royal Society's Commission on Malaria in Africa and India, 1898-1902. Second edition. London; Williams and Norgate. 1904. (Demy 8vo, pp. 440. 12s. 6d.)

[5] *Manual of Hygiene for Students and Nurses.* By John Glaister, M.D., D.P.H. Second Edition. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1905. (Crown 8vo, pp. 420. 6s.)

[6] *The Food Inspectors' Handbook.* By Francis Vacher. Fourth edition. London: Sanitary Publishing Company, Limited. 1905. (Crown 8vo, pp. 247. 3s. 6d.)

[7] *The Sanitary Inspectors' Handbook.* By Albert Taylor. Fourth edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1905. (Crown 8vo, pp. 467. 6s.)

[8] *Urban Police and Sanitary Legislation, 1904.* Compiled and arranged by Francis Noel Keen. London: P. S. King and Son. 1905. (Demy 8vo, pp. 325. 10s. 6d.)