

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

*Eye Diseases; What the Public should Know of them.* By C. S. JEAFFERSON. Two Lectures. (Walter Scott. 1888.)—There are few things more difficult than to give in a small space useful information on a technical subject to those who have not mastered its rudiments. Dr. Jeaffreson has, we think, done well to confine his remarks to a comparatively small number of subjects, and has contrived to give some sound advice with a tact and good taste which are sometimes conspicuous by their absence in lectures which are intended for the laity. His remarks on the urgent necessity of removing an eye which is hopelessly injured, and on the manner of instilling drops into a child's eye, are particularly valuable. The lecturer's remarks also on charlatans, quacks, and those who, without any knowledge of anatomy, physiology, or pathological structure, functions, or diseases of the eye, profess to be able to prescribe glasses for it, are amusing, and would do much good if the public would bear them in mind. Perhaps on the subject of the influence of tobacco and alcohol on the eye too much stress is laid on matters which are not universally accepted, but on the whole the public may read these lectures and accept all the statements contained in them without question and with much profit.

*Anatomische, Physiologische, und Physikalische Daten und Tabellen.* Dr. HERMANN VIERORDT. (Jena, 1888.)—This is a formidable book, not to be lightly taken in hand. Its title indicates the nature of its contents, for it consists of three parts, an anatomical, a physiological, and a physical, besides an appendix of tables for practical medicine and surgery. Within these hundred pages are condensed an enormous mass of statistics of every imaginable sort. It would be impracticable to enter into a detailed criticism of these, but they have been compiled from recognised authoritative sources, and have the appearance of being correct. In most cases, however, it is not stated how the results given have been arrived at, and this, as can easily be imagined, rather detracts from their usefulness. We can find comparatively few omissions. Perhaps it might be as well in giving the length of the intestines to mention that of the sigmoid flexure. Many are unaware of the length of this portion of the alimentary canal, and yet it is of much practical importance. The incubation stages of infectious fevers and of other diseases is given, but no endeavour is made to estimate the duration of their transmissibility. The decimal system of weights and measures is used throughout this volume, which we can recommend as a very well arranged and useful book of reference.

*The George Town Hospital Reports for 1887.* Edited by E. D. ROWLAND, M.B. Edin., Resident Surgeon of the Public Hospital, George Town, British Guiana. (Demerara: Printed by Baldwin and Co., George Town. 1888.)—This volume affords striking proof of the excellent scientific and practical work done by officers of the medical service of British Guiana; the first article, on the form of surgical dressing used in the Public Hospital, George Town, is by the editor. The lotion used is a solution of perchloride of mercury, made by dissolving the salt in glycerine, and diluting with water to the required strength; cotton wool prepared by soaking it in a solution of perchloride (1 to 1,000) and drying, and then soaking in tincture of benzoin and again drying, is used for covering and enveloping all operation wounds; strictest antiseptic precautions are observed, the wound being irrigated throughout the operation with perchloride solution; cotton wool is used in place of sponges, and, after securing vessels, the wound is washed with hot lotion to stop oozing. The results as tested by the statistics of 68 amputations are remarkably good, and the whole article shows the care, skill, and thought given by the surgeons of the hospital to the management of the cases under their care. How numerous these patients are is seen from the article on "Hospital Statistics for 1887," also prepared by the editor; the total number admitted during the year was 9,509, the average daily number resident being 762.4; in addition there were 29,639 out-patients. The percentage mortality was 10.9, but in this was included 163 cases which died within forty-eight hours of admission; excluding these the mortality sinks to 9.2 per cent.; it ought also to be mentioned that considerably more than half the deaths were due to phthisis and to Bright's disease. The death-rate from phthisis would seem to be disproportionately high in the colony, where the climatic con-

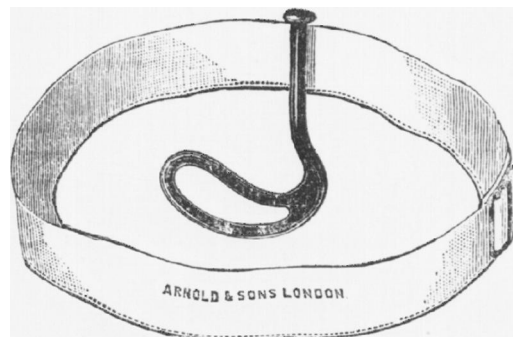
ditions are certainly not peculiarly favourable to the disease; the high rate suggests that there must be conditions either in the habits of the people or in their sanitary surroundings which need amendment; another paper in this volume, by Dr. James E. A. Ferguson, moreover appears to prove that the prevalence of the disease is very rapidly increasing. Dr. Ferguson, indeed, holds that the climate is favourable to the production of the disease in persons who are ill-homed or insufficiently clothed at night, and his able paper, containing much original matter, calls for serious study at the hands of physicians specially interested in this ubiquitous disease. "The Nepal Case" lends special interest to a case of abscess arising as a direct sequence of simple fracture of the thigh and leading to death, reported from the Public Hospital. Mr. A. T. Ozzard contributes a short note on the occurrence of ankylostoma duodenale in cases of tropical anæmia in British Guiana, and it is to be hoped that further information on this most interesting subject may come to us from this quarter. Drs. J. R. Hill, W. F. Law, and Ozanne also contribute to the volume, which is intended to be the first of a series of reports which promise to be of great value.

We have received from Messrs. T. and R. Annan, photographers and fine art publishers, 153, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, a series of three photographic groups taken at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Glasgow. No. 1 portrays the members of the Association present at the garden party given by the President and Fellows of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in the Botanic Garden, Kelvinside. No. 2, a photographic group taken on the same occasion, but with the addition of the ladies present; while No. 3 gives those present at the Mausoleum, Hamilton Palace. As specimens of photographic art they are excellent, No. 2 being especially so, and many of those present will no doubt be glad to secure copies of these pleasing souvenirs of the Glasgow meeting.

## REPORTS AND ANALYSES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

### PESSARY FOR PROLAPSE OF THE BLADDER.

BEING DISSATISFIED with other instruments, I had made the instrument figured in the accompanying woodcut. It was originally



constructed for a special case in which I succeeded admirably, and has been used successfully in several cases since. The material is vulcanite. It consists of a horse-collar shaped loop, the small end of which is attached to the stem about two inches from the loop, so that the stem is about 90° with it. The loop, with or without cross-bars, is passed into the vagina, and when the instrument is fixed, supports the anterior wall of the vagina and prevents it descending. The stem passes up over the pubes, where it is fixed by a broad band passing round the pelvis in the position of an ordinary truss. It is so fixed in the broad band that the instrument is unable to descend, and the broadness of the band prevents the instrument being forced out of the vagina. On the other hand, it does not exert any injurious pressure, but acts purely as a support, preventing the bladder from descending rather than exerting any lifting force upon it. It is stated to be quite comfortable to wear, and it successfully keeps the parts from prolapse. It is very essential that the stem passing up over the pubes should be fixed in a band at least two inches in width. Messrs. Arnold and Sons have well carried out my instructions. T. FREDERICK PEARSE, M.D., F.R.C.S.