

DRS. DARLING (Lurgan), CALWELL, KIRK, DEMPSEY, KILLEN, ROBERT CAMPBELL, TENNANT, and the PRESIDENT also took part in the discussion.

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED MEDICAL WOMEN.—At a meeting on December 6th, Miss COCK, M.D., President, in the chair, Mrs. GARRETT ANDERSON showed and explained a large number of Diagrams which she had made to present Vaccination Statistics in an easily remembered form. The "anti-vacks" had an inner ring of letter writers, pledged to proclaim in the newspapers that vaccination was a delusion. Those who know better should not be silent or indolent, but should present the other view. The accidents of vaccination were much to be regretted, and everything possible should be done to diminish their number. Probably more careful methods of dealing with the vaccination wounds in the second and third week would have this result. The vaccination mortality in England and Wales was at present about 50 children in each year, or 1 in 14,000. In Scotland it was 1 in 38,000, and in Germany 1 in 100,000. A general and sustained effort should be made to reduce the English rate. But even if it could not be much reduced the loss of 50 children each year was a smaller calamity than the death of 1,600 times as many people from small-pox would be. The population of England and Wales in 1891 was about 39½ millions; it might be presumed that it was by this time quite 40 millions. The mortality from small-pox last century was variously estimated at from 3,000 to 5,000 per million of population. If it were now only 2,000 per million the annual death rate from small-pox in England and Wales would be 80,000=50×1,600. As to the plan of superseding vaccination by the isolation of every small-pox case, Mrs. Anderson pointed out that isolation had hitherto been combined with vaccination and revaccination, and she believed that in an unvaccinated and crowded community it would completely fail.

KIDDERMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting on November 25th, Mr. E. H. ADDENBROOKE, President, in the chair, Mr. T. LIONEL STRETTON showed: (1) A woman, aged 40, upon whom he had performed Cæsarean Section. She was admitted in September with extensive malignant disease of the cervix uteri and vagina, and was at the time about six months pregnant. The operation was performed on November 7th, as her condition forbade further delay. She bore the operation, which lasted half an hour, well, and made an uneventful recovery. The baby, which weighed 4½ lbs., is also doing well. (2) Portion of a Rectum removed from a woman, aged 61. She had suffered from symptoms for eight months. On July 19th a small portion of the recto-vaginal septum which was adherent was removed and the wound closed with sutures; the length of bowel removed was about 4 inches; the growth was a carcinoma and did not involve the sphincter, most of which was left and the bowel brought down and sutured to it. The bowels moved consciously on the eighth day; the stitches were removed on the twelfth day, and on August 13th she was discharged. Mr. A. C. Oldham, under whose care she now is, states that she has full control of her motions; there is no contraction of the anus, and no recurrence of the disease. (3) A man, aged 22, upon whom he had operated for Strangulated Hernia. There was a considerable swelling which contained a large piece of omentum; the rings were quite free. The constriction was situated at the centre of the sac, and consisted of a thick, circular, fibrous band, so strong that it had worn a deep groove in the portion of omentum, and had evidently been of long standing. The omentum and sac were removed and a radical cure performed. (4) Forty-two Gall Stones removed from a woman, aged 36. At the operation it was evident that one or more stones were impacted in the common duct, and as they could not easily be dislodged they were left to come away. Since the operation bile had reappeared in her fæces and she had had no recurrence of her symptoms, so it was probable that the calculi had been passed though they had not been seen. (5) A Scirrhus of the Breast, showing extreme retraction of the nipple, removed from a woman, aged 49. Mr. Stretton also read notes of a case of Strangulated Hernia in a lady, aged 73, seen in consultation with Mr. Dennis Fitch and Mr. Pomeroy. She had been ruptured for eight

years and had worn a truss. On several occasions there had been difficulty in reducing it. The bowel came down twelve hours previous to Mr. Stretton seeing her on July 12th, and all efforts to reduce it were unavailing. Under an anæsthetic an incision was made over the swelling in the right groin, and a loop of the ascending colon was exposed and returned to the abdomen. Lying behind was a glistening body, which was found to be the sac of the original hernia; this was removed and a radical cure performed, an uneventful recovery following.—Dr. EVANS showed skiagraphs of a case of Fracture into the Ankle-joint.—Mr. F. OLIPHANT showed (for Mr. W. HODGSON MOORE): (1) A man, aged 38, from whose Knee-joint a Foreign Body had been removed three weeks previously. He recovered without any bad symptom and the joint was freely movable. (2) A Lipoma about the size of a walnut removed from the floor of the mouth of a lad, aged 16. Before removal it was thought to be a ranula. (3) A man, aged 41, who, after extensive disease of the Inter-phalangeal Joint of his Right Thumb, was left a useful hand for his work as a mason.—Mr. W. MILES mentioned the case of a woman with a Tumour in her side which resembled a movable kidney, so much so that the surgeon who was consulted made an incision in the loin. The tumour proved to be a portion of the right lobe of the liver with a dilated gall bladder attached.—Mr. F. OLIPHANT read a paper on Twelve Months' Work at the Hospital.

NOTTINGHAM MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting on December 7th, Mr. T. D. PRYCE (President) in the chair, Mr. LAWS read a paper on Pseudo-renal Retinitis, giving notes of cases illustrated by drawings, showing that all the appearances of renal retinitis might be present where there was no evidence of renal disease. In all these cases the retinal arteries were of the "silver wire" type described by Mr. Gunn, and it was suggested that there was in these patients a similar condition of the renal arterioles, causing interference with excretion and an augmented proportion of waste products in the blood. This increase was not more than might be tolerated, for many of these patients lived in good health for years; but when there was added to it a circulatory difficulty, such as that due to the pressure of the thickened retinal arteries in the veins, the tissues succumbed to the poison, and a "renal retinitis" was produced.—Mr. ANDERSON showed a woman after Choleolithotripsy performed on October 17th. The patient had suffered for a lengthened period from frequent attacks of slight jaundice, with severe pain radiating over a wide area in the thorax and abdomen, and terminating in vomiting, which at once relieved the pain. There was marked cachexia and loss of weight. The single soft stone one-third of an inch in diameter lay in the diverticulum of Vater, and when discovered was easily crushed between the fingers. The patient had since been quite well, and gained 16 lbs. in weight. Mr. WILLIS referred to a precisely similar case under his own observation, which was operated on in the same manner thirteen months previously with complete relief up to the present time.—Mr. MACKAY showed a Dermoid Cyst removed from the broad ligament of a girl aged 11 years.

## REVIEWS.

THE YEARBOOK OF PHARMACY, 1898. London: J. and A. Churchill. (Demy 8vo, p. 536. 10s.)

This annual comprises abstracts of papers relating to pharmacy, materia medica, and chemistry, which have been contributed to British and foreign journals from July 1st, 1897, to June 30th, 1898, together with the *Transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference*, held at Belfast, August, 1898. The yearbook is indispensable to the pharmacist desirous of keeping himself acquainted with the progress in the subject with which it deals. It is also useful to medical men, for it contains notices of the various investigations which have been made during the year of drugs, both old and new, with regard to their therapeutic actions. From these it is learned that hydrastis as an expectorant in bronchitis is considered to be superior to most other remedies, that creosote is well suited for relieving habitual constipation, that thyroid extract pos-

sesses well-marked properties as a galactagogue, that sodium sulphite is recommended in chronic foetid bronchitis, and thallium acetate to relieve the night sweats of phthisical patients.

It would appear that another link has been established in the chain of evidence respecting the essential unity of animal and vegetable life by the recent researches which show the close relationship existing between the basis of blood pigment and of leaf pigment.

The results of experiments upon the influence of alcohol on the digestive action of pepsin have shown that, although alcoholic liquids retard the activity of pepsin, this retardation does not occur in the stomach, owing to the rapid diffusion of the alcohol. An investigation on the influence of borax and boric acid on nutrition indicates that, while moderate doses of these substances do not exert any effect on the nutritional changes of the body, large doses (5 to 10 g. daily) retard the assimilation of proteid and fatty food. It is now stated that "green" iodide of mercury is, when pure, of a bright yellow colour, resembling that of lead chromate, and that the greenish colour is due to contamination with metallic mercury. It is satisfactory to know that mercurous iodide free from this impurity and also from mercuric iodide can be readily prepared by precipitation.

The book also contains an extensive and valuable list of notes and formulæ in which are included notices of many of the new so-called chemical remedies. The list of these new remedies is a very long one; it includes such names as euphthalin, validol, aneson, orthoform, anilipyrin, valerydin, agathin, phesin, guaiacuin, pyralosin, largin, ursal, etc.

The papers read at the Belfast Conference comprised several upon the chemistry and pharmacy of the *British Pharmacopœia, 1898*. A paper giving the results of the examination of gluten flour appears to have justified the doubt which has been entertained with regard to the value of some so-called diabetic foods.

**TWENTY-TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCEROUS AND OTHER TUMOURS, ETC.** By HERBERT SNOW, M.D.Lond. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1898. (Demy 8vo., pp. 200. 5s.)

This work is a summary of the views of its author on the treatment of cancer. In many respects Dr. SNOW differs from the received opinions of the day. Our readers doubtless recollect his interesting "Notes on 300 Cases of Breast Excision for Malignant Disease" read at the Carlisle meeting of the Association, and published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, vol. ii, 1898, p. 1085. Dr. SNOW declared that infection of the bone marrow is the great obstacle to radical cure by operation in mammary carcinoma. This infection, he found, occurs in all ordinary cases within six months of inception, frequently earlier, but its symptoms do not appear till within the second year, and may not be accompanied by nodular deposit or other palpable evidence of cancer for five to six years more. A chapter is devoted by Dr. SNOW to the subject of marrow infection. In amputation of cancer of the breast the author insists on free and wide removal of the subcutaneous tissue rather than on free excision of skin. He holds that it is rarely if ever well to remove the pectoral muscles complete, as should they be infiltrated their ablation is useless in face of the visceral and marrow deposits, which must then exist. As these observations refer to operations for cancer of the breast only, it must be remembered that Dr. SNOW definitely states that marrow infection, as a routine event, occurs only with mammary carcinoma.

Dr. SNOW's special views on opium and cocaine in the treatment of cancerous diseases of course find a place in this book; this subject, again, was discussed by him at the Carlisle meeting (see *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, vol. ii, 1898, p. 718).

The author does not believe in a "precancerous stage," and rejects the theory that the inhabitants of river valleys are specially subject to cancer, but his reference to Shrewsbury is insufficient to convince a supporter of this doctrine. Like most other writers on cancer he suggests a "true remedy" for the increasing prevalence of that dire disease. We doubt, however, whether the desired end will

be brought about by increased specialisation, and by the recognition of what the author definitely terms "cancer science."

**THE DOCTRINE OF ENERGY.** By B. L. L. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co. 1898. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 118. 2s. 6d.)

THE author's contention is that the latest discoveries of physical science tend to show that the one reality of the outside world is not matter but energy; that the existence of matter is a hypothesis which was a natural result of the knowledge we formerly had, but which throughout presented great difficulties, both to physical science itself, and also to that form of inquiry which asks how if matter be external to and akin from intelligence the latter can appreciate it. This difficulty the author thinks does not arise with energy if we hold that we ourselves are centres of energy, since by that fact we are fitted to appreciate the rest of energy. Intelligence then, like sensation, is the result of energy, and it is the transmutation of this, the only reality, which form for us all the objects of thought whether these be the phenomena of the outside world or those of our own mind. The idea of matter has arisen from a mistaken interpretation of our sensations.

We do not feel inclined to criticise this theory in any dogmatic way. One difficulty the author himself points out: Is energy conceivable without a material on which to work? Another seems to us to lie in the notion that we appreciate energy because we ourselves are centres of it. We doubt if this solves the difficulty that has so long vexed metaphysicians. Does it really explain personality, or does it not rather pass it by still unexplained, but concealed under a new form of words? If we as centres of energy are one with all energy, how do we feel separate from the rest? If we are not one with it, what is the relation between it and ourselves? We are inclined to doubt whether by substituting energy for matter the writer has really united subject and object, or has reduced what men have always felt to be two realities—the thinking self and the thing it thinks about—to one.

**DIE KRANKHEITEN DES MUNDES.** [The Diseases of the Mouth.] Von J. MIKULICZ und W. KÜMMEL, in Breslau. Mit Beiträgen von A. CZERNY und J. SCHÄFFER. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1898. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 256, 2 coloured plates, 60 figures. M. 8.)

THERE are few regions of the body where the varied forms of disease can be studied so effectively and with such profit as in the mouth. Surgically speaking, the mouth is an exceedingly fertile territory. Its diseases, then, call for our close investigation. It is enough for us to read the names of the authors of this work to know that the subject will be dealt with in a masterly fashion. A careful perusal of the work leaves us convinced that the work is worthy of its title-page.

The volume consists of six sections. In the first a general description of the mouth, anatomical and physiological, is given. The importance of the cavity as the gate of admission of a large number and a great variety of organisms is emphasised, and instructions as to the methods of examination are detailed.

In the second section, those diseases which affect the mouth generally, without special localisation, are described. Such are the affections noticed in general disease, the various forms of traumatism, inflammatory and parasitic diseases. In this section, a most able account of the manifestations due to syphilis and gonorrhœa is from the pen of Dr. SCHÄFFER. In the third section are considered the localised affections of the mouth; the diseases of the tongue, gums, lips, cheeks, and mucous membrane.

The fourth section deals with the new growths, simple and malignant, including the tumours affecting the jaws. The fifth section, written by Professor CZERNY, gives a full description of the disease of the mouth in children. In Section VI is given a useful series of prescriptions for tooth-powder, mouth washes, lip ointments, and so forth.

The teaching of the book is on the whole that which would be acceptable to English authority. In the section on cystic disease of the jaw and on the tumours of the jaw the im-

portant work of Bland Sutton is ignored. The periosteal cysts of Magitôt are considered as arising from the "rests" of Malassez, a view which, taking into account the epithelial lining of these cavities, is probably correct. A very typical case of lipoma of the tongue is figured. The unusual condition of gonorrhœal stomatitis is carefully described, and a very clear drawing of a typical case is given. The causation of ranula is fully discussed. The existence of Fleischmann's bursa is considered hypothetical, a view which will not be universally accepted. The condition known as "acute ranula" is stated to be due to an acute inflammatory affection of one or more salivary glands. The interesting patches seen on the palates of newly-born children or children a few days old, and known as "Bednar's aphthæ," it is asserted, are the results of epithelial proliferation localised at points of friction.

The volume may be considered a complete, full, and generally authentic exposition of our knowledge at the present day. The figures are exceedingly well done, but the coloured plates are—well, they are worthy of a pavement artist.

**DIE ERYSIPEL—ERYSIPELTOXIN—UND SERUMTHERAPIE DER BÖSARTIGEN GESCHWÜLSTE.** Von Dr. RUDOLF ESCHWEILER, in Bonn. Leipzig: C. G. Naumann. (Crown 8vo, pp. 142. M. 1.50).

IN a small and very unpretentious-looking volume, Dr. RUDOLF ESCHWEILER, of Bonn, has collected information of a most interesting description on the treatment of malignant tumours with erysipelas toxin and erysipelas and cancer serums.

The text is comparatively brief, dealing principally with the history of the discovery and application of these methods of treatment. The real gist of the work lies in a series of tables made up of abstracts of cases collated from all available sources.

In the first column of these tables the author gives the exact reference to the cases with which he is dealing. In the second is a short description of the case. In the third any untoward results are set forth; and in the fourth the result of the treatment, or of an attack of erysipelas, is given.

In Table I are recorded the effects of an attack of spontaneous or artificial erysipelas on malignant tumours. There are given notes of 59 cases, of which 15 recovered, but 6 of the others appear to have died from an attack of erysipelas. In one the history of the patient could not be followed out, but up to the time that he left hospital there was marked diminution in the size of the tumour, whilst another case still remained under observation. It will be seen from this record that at least 25 per cent. of the patients treated by this method are reported ultimately to have recovered.

Table II contains notes of 95 cases of tumours treated with erysipelas toxin alone, or along with the products of the bacillus prodigiosus. Recovery took place in 15, or in about 16 per cent. There was apparent improvement in at least 3 other cases. In 15 cases there was, accompanying or following the injection, considerable pain, fever, dyspnoea, pneumonia, suppuration, great loss of strength, vomiting, collapse, marked herpes, or eczema; whilst in 9 there was a very rapid increase of the growth, and in a few cases death from collapse or similar accident is recorded. During the treatment 14 of the patients failed to have died, several from pneumonia, collapse, or septic mischief, but some undoubtedly from the growth of the tumour.

In Table III are given the results of treatment of malignant tumours with erysipelas serum. These, 49 in number, offer very little encouragement to the surgeon. To begin with, in at least 37 of the cases very marked local and general symptoms, such as swelling, œdema, rashes, and high temperature occurred, although the more severe symptoms were usually wanting, and in only one case was there a "cure" of the disease, though in one other some improvement was noted.

As to the treatment with cancer and sarcoma serum, only 4 cases are collected, and in not one of these was any good result apparent.

It is evident, then, that up to the present the best results have been obtained with true erysipelas infection, for 25 per cent. of the patients recovered; the proportion of deaths from erysipelas is, however, somewhat high, so that the treatment

is not unaccompanied by risk. With erysipelas toxin and Coley's fluid the results are not quite so good, the percentage of recoveries being about 16. With erysipelas serum the percentage of recoveries is very small indeed, only about 2, whilst with cancer serum the percentage is *nil*. Here, however, the number of cases is so small that it has very little statistical value.

These facts speak for themselves, and for those who wish to have in a handy form the details on which the statistics are based, this little book may be strongly recommended.

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE first of the annuals to reach us this year is *Who's Who* (London: A. and C. Black. 3s. 6d. net). The first to appear, it is also one of the most generally useful. Mr. Douglas Sladen, the editor, quotes a criticism which appeared last year, to the effect that *Who's Who* contained not only personages but potential personages. He accepts the criticism, and claims, with justice, that this is one of the chief objects of the book. Experience of previous volumes, which have been of use to us for almost daily reference, has proved to our satisfaction that the compilation is remarkably accurate, while the analytical tables, which occupy the first 150 pages of the book, greatly facilitate the search for information.

THE aim of *Essentials of Modern Treatment of Disease for the Use of Practitioners*, by K. M. MADKARNI, Part I (Madras: N. K. Rao and Co.; and London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1898. Crown 8vo, pp. 212) has been, the author states in the preface, "to supply the busy practitioner with a pocket compendium of ready reference, containing an epitomised account of the various modes of treating each disease recommended by eminent authorities of several countries." The work is a compilation, and reflects credit on the industry of the compiler. Diseases are arranged alphabetically, and different methods of medicinal treatment are given. Authorities are quoted, but no references are supplied. The *rationale* of the use of drugs and methods is very sparingly furnished or altogether omitted; and information regarding the success of treatment is exceedingly scanty or wanting. A work of this sort is, we fear, apt to give rise to mischief in practice—to purely empirical methods, to shifty unsettled management of cases, and to overdrugging. Most men like to treat disease on some kind of principle, and to obtain direction from pathology, or seek sanction from experience; and patients prefer to entrust themselves to men who are known to found their efforts on knowledge of this kind. The busy practitioner who would, for example, endeavour to frame a conscientious and consistent plan of treatment of Asiatic cholera from the scrappy hints contained in this book would find himself in a state of bewilderment to start with, and his patient in bad plight at the end. Another disadvantage of this sort of compilation is that drugging is sometimes encouraged when surgical measures are required, and early resort to them constitutes the best or only means of cure. The article on cancer may be referred to in illustration. The reason for publishing a compendium of this nature in parts is difficult to conceive. A "pocket book of easy reference" would surely have been more convenient if complete in one volume.

DR. EDGARD CHEVALIER'S small work, *Chirurgie des Voies Urinaires* (Paris: J. B. Baillière et Fils. 1899. Crown 8vo, pp. 336, 83 figures. Fr. 5) deals with the *technique* of the various operations performed on the urinary organs. It is a work on operative surgery. The general descriptive part is prefaced by a detailed account of the procedures in general use for the sterilisation of catheters and instruments, and the importance of these is very properly emphasised. Instillation and flushing of the urethra, urethroscopy, and urethrotomy are fully described. The operative procedures recommended for hypospadias and epispadias are somewhat primitive, and the descriptions are rather bald. The bladder, ureter, and kidney are dealt with in succession. Practically all the recognised surgical procedures are mentioned, but the instructions given are in some cases very inadequate to the needs of a beginner, for whom the book is primarily intended. A young and comparatively inexperienced surgeon would hardly place reliance on so unpretentious a volume as this. The necessity for the publication of the work is therefore