

various contagious diseases of men and animals, with legislation and regulations concerning the same.

Chapter IX explains the organisation of the medical and sanitary services, national and local; and Chapter X the course of instruction at the various medical, military, naval, veterinary, technical, and public schools, so far as relates to hygiene and allied subjects.

Lists of the members of the several societies of public health constitute the last chapter; and the rules, etc., of the Société de Médecine Publique, to which we owe this retrospect of work done and indications for future efforts, are added as an appendix.

We close the volume with mingled feelings of satisfaction and disappointment. English sanitarians will not find much practical help from it; but, to the scientific student of hygiene, it will be valuable for the lessons and warnings it contains. *Fus est ab hoste doceri*; and a study even of misdirected efforts is at times useful, while some of the papers incorporated in this volume possess no small intrinsic value.

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

*Food and Home Cookery*: comprising the Cookery Scheme of the Leeds School-Board. By CATHERINE M. BUCKTON. (Longmans, Green, and Co.)—This is a reprint of a book that appeared some years ago, and it now has the cookery scheme of the Leeds School-Board prefixed. In our opinion, this preface is likely to be the most valuable part of the book; and we can cordially recommend it to the notice of any person who proposes to start a cookery class for working girls. The hints as to the arrangement of the pupils and the work are not only excellent in theory, but have been tested by some years' successful practice; besides which, Mrs. Buckton has a perfect genius for economising space. The lessons on food and home cookery are neither better nor worse than many similar works that have appeared of late. We are led to imagine that the writer is not a practical cook; and we are sorry to see that many of the instructions and recipes are wholly beyond the reach of the one-roomed families for whom the lessons are said to be given, while others peremptorily dispose of what we believe to be debatable matter in the culinary world. But a cook or teacher who can make these comments for herself will not read the lessons without profit. We must, however, join issue with the opinion that "the best cookery teacher is an intelligent person who has been trained to cook, and is ready to impart information drawn up for her, as in the following lessons." Neither these nor any other science lessons ought to be given parrot-like by a teacher, however intelligent, who has only been trained to cook. In our zeal for popularising science, we are apt to forget that, if a cookery teacher have not sufficient mental power and education to approach her subject scientifically, she had much better teach cookery on the old unscientific basis.

*Medical Book-keeping Simplified: Carlyle's Self-indexing Medical Account Book*.—We have received from Mr. G. E. T. Carlyle, of 6, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, a specimen copy of a new form of ledger for simplifying the mode in which medical accounts may be kept. It consists, as in the copy before us, of a book ruled for six months, commencing with the first month of the year, and going on to June, and which contains, first, a column for the name of the patient; then one for the address; then follows a column for each week of the month, and so on until the end of the six months. After this, there is a space for the amount of total attendance, the gross amount, and of arrears, which, with medical men, may be unfortunately always calculated on. By leaving sufficient space, the entries may be carried forward for the whole year, or for four or five years. All that appears necessary is to enter the name of each month below the column set apart for the same. The ledger is admirably indexed; consequently, the patient's name and account may be found easily; and all that is required in order to carry forward the same from the day-book to the ledger, is to sum up the amount for attendance and medicine for each week, and then to enter the same in the proper column. Our notice would not be complete without our stating that the originator is prepared to make, specially, ledgers of any size ruled on this plan.

*The Quarterly Journal of Inebriety*, April 1883 (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox).—This ably conducted journal continues to set forth the physical aspect of inebriety, and to point out that the system of the habitual drunkard is in a diseased condition. Dr. Howard of Montreal, in the current number, deplors the ignorance of the disease-aspect on the part of moral and social reformers generally. Dr. Day of Boston expounds the principles on which

the American treatment of inebriates is based. Dr. Parrish of Philadelphia notes many practical facts relating to inebriety. Dr. Crothers of Connecticut calls attention to the present legal view of the criminality of inebriety. Dr. Norman Kerr, in a paper originally read to the last Church Congress, contends that inebriety has both a physical and a moral aspect. The views of this spirited journal are now attracting considerable attention.

*The Student's Guide to Surgical Diagnosis*. By CHRISTOPHER HEATH, F.R.C.S., Holme Professor of Clinical Surgery in University College, London, and Surgeon to University College Hospital, etc. Second edition. London: J. and A. Churchill.—This new edition of Mr. Heath's work is improved by a revised index, indispensable in a book of reference, however small and elementary; the author has also added certain subjects previously unnoticed, and given fuller details of some important points in diagnosis. We trust that the aim of the distinguished author of this manual will not be defeated by its perversion to a cram-book. If rightly used, it will prove a valuable aid to clinical study.

*Illustrated Medicine and Surgery*. E. B. Treat, New York: Trübner and Co., London.—This quarterly illustrated journal, published by Drs. Fox and Sturges, continues its course and deserves high commendation. The number of the first quarter of 1883 includes a very interesting series of illustrations, with some fine chromolithographs and photographs. The subjects treated are:—Dental Development, by Dr. Wm. Hailles, jun.; case of Palato-pharyngeal Sarcoma, by Dr. Johnson Emot; Excision of the Shoulder-joint, by Dr. Randolph Winslow; cases of Compound Complicated Harelip, by Dr. J. L. Little; Cysto-adenoma of the Thyroid Gland, by Dr. C. Buckley; Secondary Myeloid Disease of Pleura and Lung, by Dr. W. Osler; Congenital Union of the Fingers, by Dr. J. H. Fooley; A Teratological Contribution, by Dr. G. J. Engelmann; Apparatus for Treating Fracture of the Patella, by Dr. J. S. Wright.

*General Medical Chemistry for the Use of Practitioners of Medicine*. By R. A. WITTHAUS, M.D. Sampson Low and Co. 1882.—This volume forms one of Low's library of standard medical authors, and appears as an octavo of 433 pages. The purport of the work is stated on the title-page and in the preface. It is intended to form a general text-book of chemistry, but by condensing to a minimum those portions which deal with technical processes, and treating fully of the bearing of the science upon physiology, hygiene, therapeutics, and toxicology, this work has been rendered useful to the general practitioner. The work is serviceable and fairly reliable, but it scarcely fulfils its promise. It does not differ in any marked degree from other well known text-books of chemistry, except in the peculiarity of the classification of the elements—an altogether unimportant matter. The nomenclature of compounds is often peculiar; thus we meet with such names as "arsenia," "stibonia," "carbonous oxide," "ptomaines," etc. Notwithstanding these blemishes, some occasional obscurity of statement, and some obvious misprints, the work is one which, on the whole, can be recommended for general use.

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

### BORACIC POWDER.

UNDER the name of Sanitary Rose Powder, Messrs. James Woolley and Sons (Manchester) have introduced, at the suggestion, we are informed, of Mr. Lund of Manchester, a very finely divided boracic acid powder, made with special appliances, so as to ensure the formation of an impalpable powder. The powder is pleasantly perfumed, and presented in such a condition that it will be found to be an improvement on the old-fashioned violet-powders, which are manufactured under very various formulæ. It is an advantage of this powder, as compared with ordinary Fuller's earth, that it is not liable to cake, and thus to excite irritation. In use, this boracic powder is very comfortable, and has the advantage of being antiseptic.

THE urinary test-case manufactured by Mr. Hawkeley, to which we referred in a recent number, was, we are requested to state, designed by Dr. George Johnson, and is used by him.