

HOSPITAL-MANAGEMENT; being the authorised Report of a Conference on the Administration of Hospitals, held under the auspices of the Social Science Association in July 1883. Edited by J. L. CLIFFORD-SMITH, Secretary of the Association. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1883.

THIS octavo volume of 190 pages contains the papers which were read at the recent Conference on Hospital-Administration, and the discussions which followed thereon. The subject of hospital-management was treated in all its length and breadth; and, as great pains were taken to bring together from all parts of the country persons who were conversant with the subject, we have here a most valuable record of facts, opinions, and suggestions.

To consider the opinions and suggestions that were offered would require more space than we can afford. But we have culled a few of the facts that were stated by various speakers, and they are such as call loudly for reforms.

1. While ten of the largest general hospitals are all grouped within a radius of a mile and a half from Charing Cross, giving 3,439 beds for that region, the whole of the north, east, and west of London, with a population of millions, has only five hospitals, affording respectively 33 beds in the north, 810 in the east, and 232 in the west.

2. The annual income of all the medical charities cannot be taken at less than three quarters of a million sterling, divided very unequally among about 200 institutions.

3. The number of persons obtaining gratuitous medical relief at the metropolitan hospitals and dispensaries does not fall short of a million, or one-fourth of the whole population of the metropolis.

4. The last report of the Leeds General Infirmary says: "Amongst the number of persons applying for relief as out-patients, there were 2,099 whose cases were too trivial for treatment, who were consequently sent away; and about 150 were rejected as being in a position to pay for medical treatment." The number of out-patients admitted was 15,873. If the same proportions were applied to the million out-patients of London, in what a striking way the abuse of hospitals would be represented!

5. There are in the metropolitan hospitals 1,000 beds daily unoccupied.

6. In 1882, the deficit at nine of the general hospitals amounted in the aggregate to £40,000; nor does this represent the total excess of expenditure over income, for, at these same institutions, the income expended included no less than £69,700 derived from legacies.

7. Hospital-accounts are not kept according to any uniform plan, and in but few instances is a balance-sheet presented at all.

8. As regards the audit of accounts, out of 54 institutions, only 15 employ professional auditors, and at five hospitals the accounts are audited by the hospital-officials themselves.

9. The number of hospitals in London and the neighbourhood that are now receiving money from their patients is 41.

10. Last year, the receipts from "poor paying patients," who are received in the ordinary wards at St. Thomas's Hospital, were £65; while the fees from patients at St. Thomas's Home amounted to £5,774.

11. The persons of the middle and lower middle class who were last year received into the Bolingbroke House Pay Hospital paid 73 per cent. of their cost.

These facts show how large are the interests involved, how unequally the medical charities are distributed over the vast area of 122 square miles which constitutes Greater London, how much hampered many of these institutions are for lack of funds, and how ready people are to contribute according to their means when paying systems are brought within their reach. That these questions can only be dealt with by a Royal Commission, seems to be the growing conviction of those who are best able to judge. We trust that the Committee which was appointed at the close of this Conference may be able to induce the Home Secretary to grant such a Commission.

THE ORGANS OF SPEECH, AND THEIR APPLICATION IN THE FORMATION OF ARTICULATE SOUNDS. By GEORG HERMANN VON MEYER, Professor in Ordinary of Anatomy at the University of Zurich. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1883.

THIS book forms the forty-seventh volume in the International Scientific Series, and was written with special reference to the requirements of the philologist on the subject of the structure and function of the organs of speech. The anatomical and physiological handbooks, as the author says in his preface, are little adapted

to this purpose, much of them being discussed at length which is of little use to the philologist, while, on the other hand, points which to him are of considerable importance are only briefly alluded to.

The book is divided into a short introduction of a few pages, and three long chapters, which again are divided into convenient sections and subsections. The first chapter, on the Formation of the Organs of Speech, opens with an account of the production of the air-current, the structure of the lungs, and the mechanism of respiration. A detailed description is then given of the anatomy of the larynx, pharynx, mouth, and nasal cavities. This part of the book is well illustrated by woodcuts, arrows being used to indicate the direction of the force in the action of the muscles of the larynx. At the end of the description of the various organs, a short summary is appended, in which are briefly recapitulated the chief points discussed in the preceding pages, a practice, we think, that might with advantage be more frequently adopted by authors. In the second chapter, on the Relation between the Organs of Speech and the Formation of Sound, the physiology of the subject is treated of. In the third chapter, on the Formation of Articulate Sounds, the facts and theories discussed and explained in the two former chapters are applied. The author, as we should have expected, adopts the physiological classification of articulate sounds in place of the old classification usually given in the grammars, and founded on the erroneous assumption that any alphabet furnishes in its various letters the whole of the sounds of the language of which it constitutes the symbols. The noises employed in the formation of articulate sounds are classed under the heads of *strepitus continuus*, and *strepitus repentinus*; the former being subdivided into *spirans*, *stridulus*, and *vibrans*, the latter into *avulsivus*, *explosivus*, and *occlusivus*. As an example of the *spirans*, we of course have H, the air passing through the open mouth; of the *stridulus*, ach (German) and loch (Scotch), the air being forced during this sound through a narrow opening between the palate and the dorsum of the tongue. Of the *vibrans* we have, as an example, the lingual R; of the *avulsivus*, the peculiar clicking noise of the Hottentots produced by suddenly withdrawing the anterior part of the tongue from the hard palate, and occasionally used by us in the whispered P, to produce which we have to suddenly separate the lips. But space does not permit us to give further examples of this very interesting subject, and for such we must refer the reader to the work itself.

The section on the production of the vowel-sounds is particularly interesting; and the position of the tongue, soft palate, and larynx during the emission of these sounds is admirably illustrated by diagrams of longitudinal sections of the parts.

The book is well printed on capital paper, and is provided with a good index. We can recommend it as likely to supply a want which has doubtless long been felt by those interested in the subject.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Electro-Magnet, and its Employment in Ophthalmic Surgery. By SIMEON SNELL. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.—This little book forms a capital summary of all that is known up to the present on the use of the electro-magnet in eye-surgery, a subject which the author has done so much to elucidate. He gives as many as sixteen cases of his own in which the magnet was used to extract small pieces of iron, with a successful result, and gives explanations—apparently not unsatisfactory—of the three cases in which the removal of the foreign body was not accomplished. He anticipates good results in practice from the employment of the magnetised needle in the detection of fragments of metal within the globe. With such a record of eyes saved by the magnet, any surgeon practising in a manufacturing district would be unwise if he neglected to make a trial of this procedure in suitable cases. We cordially commend the book to all such.

Birmingham Health-Lectures.—The useful lectures on health at the Birmingham and Midland Institute are being continued with much success, and are published at one penny each by Messrs. Hamilton, Adams and Co., London. The very interesting and excellent series already issued includes *Ways and Means of Health*, by Dr. HESLOP; *Coughs and Colds*, by BALTHAZAR FOSTER, M.D., F.R.C.P.; *Facts about Food and Feeding*, by ALFRED H. CARTER, M.D. Lond., M.R.C.P.; *On Wounds and Broken Bones, and on Burns and Bruises*, by OLIVER PEMBERTON, F.R.C.S.; *Dangers of Defective Drainage*, by ALFRED HILL, M.D., F.I.C., Medical Officer of Health, Birmingham. To these will next be added, *Address to Women*, by LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Hospital for Women, Birmingham. Women only were admitted to this lecture.