

plete. Their present effort is, no doubt, well meant, but the result is far from satisfactory.

One of the best features in the book is the drawing comparing normal—principally spore-bearing—tubercle bacilli in sputum with a specimen of sputum after treatment, in which the bacilli have become degenerated and their number diminished.

ON SEVERE VOMITING DURING PREGNANCY. By GRAILY HEWITT, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P., etc. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1890. Pp. 147.

DR. HEWITT'S views of uterine pathology are familiar to all who take an interest in obstetrics and gynaecology. The volume before us is the application of "the mechanical system of uterine pathology" to the vomiting of pregnancy. According to Dr. Hewitt, in by far the majority of cases of vomiting during pregnancy, slight or severe, the vomiting is a reflex effect of irritation seated in the uterus, and due to "undue pressure or tension of the nerve filaments distributed in the walls of the cervix, especially those in the vicinity of the internal os." The alterations most frequently present in the uterus are briefly: flexion, rigidity, and impaction, and the impaction and rigidity are connected with the flexion. "The probable order of events prior to pregnancy in the majority of cases of severe pregnancy vomiting may be thus stated: 1. Weakness (from inadequate nutrition) of the uterine tissues. 2. Occurrence of undue degrees of flexion. 3. Metritis and subsequent rigidity of cervix (and, after pregnancy has set in). 4. Increase of degree of flexion and displacement, etc." (p. 127). If Dr. Hewitt's theory is correct, the following propositions ought to be true, and, if shown to be true, they might be held to prove the theory, at least until some other explanation is forthcoming: 1. In cases of pregnancy with flexion of the uterus, vomiting should be more severe and more often present than in cases without flexion. 2. In cases of pregnancy with severe vomiting, flexion of the uterus should be more often present than in cases with little or no vomiting. 3. In cases of vomiting with flexion of the uterus, relief should follow removal of flexion, which does not follow other treatment, or occur if the flexion is left unrelieved. Dr. Hewitt makes no attempt at all to demonstrate the two first propositions. His line of argument is that indicated in the third proposition, and consists in (1) showing that flexion is often present with vomiting (omitting any estimate of how often it is present without sickness); (2) giving a theoretical explanation of how flexion ought to cause vomiting; and (3) relating cases to show that disappearance of the vomiting follows removal of the flexion. But many of the cases quoted from other authors were treated in other ways besides removal of flexion, and the vomiting of pregnancy usually gets better spontaneously, at or about the mid-term of pregnancy; therefore his cases do not perfectly demonstrate the proposition, proof of which we have desired.

We have said enough to indicate our opinion of the strength and the weakness of Dr. Hewitt's argument. It only remains to be added that the author has bestowed much labour on the collection of cases, and his statement and defence of his theory are characterised by ingenuity, temperance, and candour. The book will at least do good by preventing the possible evils of uterine displacements during pregnancy from being overlooked.

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. Published by the Association. 1889.

We have much pleasure in noticing the first of what we trust may be a long series of volumes containing the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. This Association was founded in 1888, upon the same lines as the British Association, and its rules are practically the same. The first meeting was held at Sydney, and the General Committee resolved that the annual meeting should be held at different cities in the Australasian Colonies; Melbourne being fixed upon for the second meeting place, and a New Zealand town for the third. The Report before us shows the arrangements of the meeting to have been what our readers are familiar with in

connection with the gatherings of the British Association and of our own Association. The scientific work of the meeting was conducted in the following Sections: A. Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics, and Mechanics. B. Chemistry and Mineralogy. C. Geology and Palaeontology. D. Biology. E. Geography. F. Economics and Social Science and Statistics. G. Anthropology. H. Sanitary Science and Hygiene. I. Literature and Fine Arts. J. Architecture and Engineering. Excellent addresses were delivered in each section by the President, and afterwards the several papers were read and discussions took place thereon. The Sections with which we would most particularly deal are those most nearly allied to medicine.

In the Chemical Section papers were read on Butterine, or as it has been called by Act of Parliament in this country, margarine; on the Dissolved Matter Contained in Rain Water collected at Canterbury, New Zealand; on the Chemical Laboratory at the University of Sydney, which, when completed, will leave little to be desired. In Biology, the President discussed in his address the influence of Physiographic Changes in the Distribution of Life in Australia. Among the papers read we notice the following: A Comparative Study of Striated Muscle, by Dr. Haswell; Note on the Nomenclature of the Sexual Organs of Plants and Animals, by Professor Jeffrey Parker; On a New Australian Mammal akin to the Cape Mole, by Dr. E. C. Stirling. In the Section of Anthropology, the papers were chiefly of a linguistic and ethnological nature.

It is curious to note that there was not a single paper read treating of the physical anthropology of the Australasian aborigines, notwithstanding the opportunities which exist for observations on them; and the many interesting and important points which remain to be worked out before the natives become extinct—which there is every indication will happen before many years elapse. In the Section of Sanitary Science and Hygiene, the President discoursed on the Various Hygienic Aspects of Australian Life. The other papers contained in the Report are On the Classification of Persons who have been Exposed to the Infection of Small-pox, so as to show the Relation between the Incidence of the Disease and Different Degrees of Protection by Vaccination, or by a former attack; Theatre Hygiene; the present Sanitary Condition of Sydney as compared with the past; and Sanitary Sewerage. All these are interesting papers, and may be read with much advantage by those interested in sanitary questions. The volume consists of 659 pages of well printed matter, and is illustrated by no fewer than 49 plates and maps; it also contains many statistical tables of considerable value. The volume shows that scientific work is being pushed with commendable zeal in those distant parts of the British Empire. It is reasonable to expect that with the increasing facilities offered by the universities, the amount of good work done in the Australasian Colonies will steadily increase.

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

*Physiological Quantities or Constants.* By V. H. WYATT WINGRAVE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. (London: Henry Kimpton. 1890.)—In this handy little book, Mr. Wingrave has arranged some of the most important figures relating to quantity and measurement, in a manner very convenient for reference. The numbers are taken from the most recent editions of standard physiological textbooks, and are arranged with admirable clearness and precision. It need hardly be said that the work before us is not intended to supplant these textbooks, but we fancy that students going up for examination will find this waistcoat pocket companion more suitable for the purpose of refreshing their memory than a bulkier volume.

*Colour Blindness and Defective Sight in Relation to Public Duty.* By GEORGE MACKAY, M.D.Edin. (Edinburgh: Macniven and Wallace. 1890.)—This little pamphlet is a reprint of one of a series of "Health Lectures for the People," and it would be well if the people would read it, for although it contains

nothing that is new, it indicates in a very concise but clear manner the dangers to which the travelling public are constantly exposed by the ignorance or supineness of those whose duty it is to determine the physical capacity of men employed as seamen or on railways. After a brief account of the nature of light and the physiology of vision, the author points out the nature of congenital colour blindness, the principle of Holmgren's wool test, and the utter inefficiency of the tests adopted by the Board of Trade and most railway companies. The subject of tobacco amblyopia is also touched upon, and the necessity of the periodical testing of the vision pointed out. A great many other objects are dealt with, such as the eyesight of school children, the prejudice of employers of labour against men wearing glasses, while at the same time they do not insist upon any standard of vision, and many other matters which we have not space to enumerate. The pamphlet contains nothing that is not admitted to be true by all authorities, and it ought to be widely read by the public as a summary of our knowledge of the subjects of which it treats.

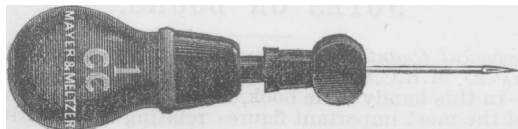
*Illustrations of Diseases of the Skin and Syphilis, with Remarks.* By TOM ROBINSON, M.D. (London: J. and A. Churchill.)—The first plate shows the appearance of fully-developed syphilis on the body of a child twenty-four hours after death, drawn by Burgess. The second shows the appearance of syphilis in the palm; the third kerion, or suppurating ringworm. The author announces that this is the first fasciculus of a series which he hopes to produce. The production of coloured plates representing skin diseases requires no apology, so long as the artistic execution is sufficiently good. Without depreciating the value of Mr. Burgess's delineation of the appearances in the dead child, we cannot help thinking that his skilled brush might have been better employed in delineating the appearances in the living subject.

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

### IMPROVED HYPODERMIC INJECTOR FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROFESSOR KOCH'S REMEDY FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

A FEW years since I suggested a safe little instrument as a substitute for the hypodermic syringe. It consisted simply of an elastic measuring ball and an injecting needle. The balls were made in several sizes, and each ball was capable of holding a definite amount of fluid, and was marked with a number indicating its capacity in minims.

The improved injector is especially intended for the ad-



ministration of the antituberculous lymph, and its cost is so moderate that a separate instrument can be employed for every patient; it possesses many of the special qualities of Professor Koch's more elaborate syringe. The measuring balls are made in two convenient sizes, one having a capacity for holding one fluid centimètre, and the other for exactly half that quantity. The needle is attached to the ball by a simple joint, and it carries a large boss, which serves for a handle during its introduction. The injector can be instantly and perfectly charged by simply compressing the ball between the thumb and finger, and then inserting the open end of the joint into the lymph. The needle must then be fixed on the ball and filled by a similar movement. The little instrument should always be carefully preserved from dust, and both before and after every operation it ought to be

washed out with absolute alcohol, and then by a  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. solution of carbolic acid.

Some very valuable notes by Mr. Henry Campbell, of Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, on the metrical dilution of the lymph for hypodermic use appeared in the *BARRISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 10th, 1891.

The safety hypodermic injector can be obtained from Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer of Great Portland Street.

JOHN WARD COUSINS, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.S.,  
Senior Surgeon to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital and  
the Portsmouth and South Hants Eye  
and Ear Infirmary.

### STERILISED ALPINE MILK OR CREAM MILK.

WE have examined several tins of this milk. Our analyses agree with those put forward by the vendors, and show that the preparation is a genuine milk of good quality, condensed to one-third. It is quite free from added sugar, and from so-called "preservatives." The claims made for this product, which differs entirely from those commonly known as "condensed milks," are justified; and we may call attention to it as one which is likely to be valuable to the profession.—(Loeblund and Co.: Baelz and Co., St. Mary Axe, E.C.)

### MALT AND HYPOPHOSPHITE BISCUITS.

THESE biscuits are made from malt and wheat flour, and contain hypophosphites. They are free from adulterations and impurities, and are well manufactured and palatable. They are intended to be used under medical direction.—(Reade Brothers, Wolverhampton.)

### WARRINGTON CHLOROFORM.

WE have examined a specimen of this chloroform, which, we are informed, is manufactured by a special process. It is quite free from the impurities commonly found. The results of our analysis enable us to state that it is a very pure product.—(A. H. Mason, 46, Jewin Street, London.)

### IMPROVED MALT EXTRACT WITH COD-LIVER OIL.

WE have received and examined several bottles of this preparation. The malt extract possesses a very high diastasic power; its action upon starch is unusually rapid. The oil used is a genuine cod-liver oil. The preparation is free from "preservatives" and from other adulterations. It is sound and well manufactured.—(Loeblund and Co.: Baelz and Co., St. Mary Axe, E.C.)

### MOLFA SOAP.

SOME specimens of this soap have been submitted to us for examination. The results of our analysis show that it is a well-manufactured hard soap, of very good quality. The soap is "superfatted," contains no free alkali, and is free from excess of water, from insoluble matters, and from adulteration of any kind.—(Dinneford and Co., New Bond Street.)

### VICHY NATURAL MINERAL WATER, ST. LOUIS.

It is claimed that this is a mineral water containing a small amount of arsenic, and that it is especially useful in certain disorders. We find the arsenic to be present in about the amount stated upon the labels.—(Sources de Vichy.)

### "CONCENTRATED CLAM JUICE," OR "EXTRACT OF CLAMS."

THIS is a liquid preparation of peculiar saline fish-like odour and taste, not unlike those possessed by oysters, put up in hermetically sealed tins. Our analysis points to the juice being what it claims to be, namely, a watery extract of shell fish. It does not appear to be possible to put up the preparation in anything else but tins, but it is satisfactory to find that it is free from any trace of poisonous metals. When prepared according to the directions given it forms a very appetising broth. The preparation may prove useful in many cases.—(A. H. Bailey, Boston, U.S.A.: G. Fuller, Tower Chambers, Moorgate Street, E.C.)