

medical men, and is at the same time more technical than the general public care for. Dr. Macfie has written his book for the New Library of Medicine, but its contents are familiar to every practitioner who has read a book on public health; on the other hand, it is, except for the last chapter, well suited for the general public, who will find in the story it unfolds reliable information upon the physical conditions of air and their relationship to health, upon the impurities with which the atmosphere is apt to become charged, upon the difficult question of ventilation, and upon the still more difficult problem of climate. The author's views on climate are sound, and so clearly formulated that they offer a working scheme whereby may be gained a rough knowledge of the factors which go to make one place bracing and another relaxing, one place more desirable than another under certain conditions and at certain seasons of the year. The reader will also learn something of the principles by which he should be guided in the choice of a spot at which to enjoy that "change of air" which seems to possess such mysterious powers of reinvigoration, and which we all regard as a periodic necessity to the strenuous life of the present day.

The authoress of *When No Man Pursueth*,¹⁶ Mrs. BELLOC LOWNDES, is a keen psychologist and a decided artist in the portrayal of character. It is in this respect rather than plot-weaving that her strength as a novel-writer lies. Without any obvious effort and in remarkably few words she manages to make each of her characters, their environment, their difficulties, and their temptations, stand out clearly, and their actions and conduct, whether wise or foolish, good or bad, always seem the natural outcome thereof. The result is that her books are always interesting, though their tone is sometimes unpleasant. To the present volume no such exception can be taken, there being a normal admixture of quite likeable people among her characters. Among these the three principal men ostensibly belong to the medical profession, but one, the pleasant-spoken, plausible villain of the piece, appropriately hails from some unknown place abroad. His wife is a patient of the two other doctors, and his medical knowledge, whencesoever derived, is sufficient to enable him to create for them a very pretty problem in medical ethics and clinical diagnosis. It is on the fashion in which the two English medical men respectively deal with the matter that the whole plot turns. It is neatly worked out, and the interest is sustained from beginning to end of the volume.

The purpose of SWANSON'S *Handbook of Scotch Sanitary Law*,¹⁷ the third edition of which has just been issued, is, as the preface states, to provide in a concise form a synopsis of the various sanitary laws of Scotland. It is intended for the use of students preparing for the sanitary inspectors' examinations. Blank leaves are provided for notes. In the sixty odd pages which the handbook covers it presents in a condensed form the principal features of the Public Health Acts as applying to Scotland, defining the terms used under the different clauses. The author refers in figures within brackets to the sections of the various Acts mentioned in the text. On the whole, this small book will be useful to students going up for the sanitary examination; the principal clauses of the various Acts are clearly stated, and should efficiently serve the purpose intended. One fact is brought out in perusing the handbook—namely, the number of different Acts bearing on matters connected with public health and sanitation; besides the main Act there are no less than sixteen other Acts dealing with questions which should for purposes of administration be embodied in a single Act. Evidently the writer hails from south of the Tweed, thus accounting for the word "Scotch" instead of the more correct form "Scottish" on the title page.

The mode of dealing with a subject by the catechism method of definite question and answer has not very much to recommend it. At its best it can only be used to supplement the ordinary form of textbook. There are some, however, to whom this means of acquiring knowledge or of fixing that already acquired must appeal, for the series on *Public Health*, by Dr. W. ROBERTSON, has now reached a second edition.¹⁸ The subjects dealt with are: I, *Water*; II, *Air and Ventilation, Warming, Lighting, Climate*; III, *Sewage and its Treatment*; IV, *Vital Statistics, Dwell-*

ings, Meteorology; V, *Epidemiology, Food, Burial, Water-Closets, Disinfectants, Heating, Hospitals*. The author has put the necessary questions in a very concise and at times a very telling form, and the answers are quite in accordance with the views held by teachers of public health at the present day. Among the few omissions is one in the section dealing with earth closets, where mention might appropriately have been made of the bacterial effect of surface earth upon excrement.

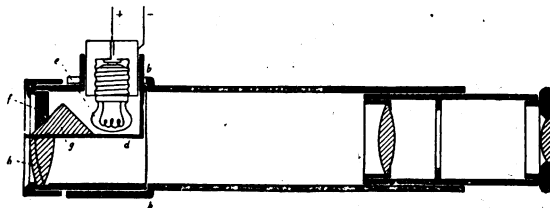
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

Projection Lanterns.

A USEFUL form of projecting lantern is the subject of a catalogue issued by the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company (19, Thavies Inn, E.C.). The principal feature of instruments of the type described is their rapid convertibility, and with the minimum of extra adjustment or loss of time they can be used for projecting not only ordinary lantern slides, but also opaque objects, written and printed matter, and photomicrographs. We have had the opportunity of witnessing a demonstration of these lanterns, and the ease with which they are worked, and the remarkable clearness of the picture thrown on the screen, even in a room only semi-darkened, clearly entitle them to favour. In its more elaborate form the instrument, which bears the trade name of "Balopticon," is suitable for college and educational use; while the portable pattern, weighing only some 20 lb. in its case, has obvious uses for the travelling lecturer.

Ophthalmofundoscope.

Some years ago nearly every one who aspired to become an ophthalmic surgeon seemed to think it necessary to introduce an ophthalmoscope which should henceforth bear his name, and many and varied were the modifications devised of the instrument Helmholtz introduced in 1851. In principle these were all identical, though it might be more convenient to use one than another. The ophthalmofundoscope which has lately been invented by



Dr. Fritz Baum, of the Royal University of Rome, is a totally different instrument. It is shaped like a telescope, and the observer looks through it as he does when using that instrument; it is, however, only 10 cm. long. In it is a small electric lamp with a prism and a series of lenses. The observer must focus the instrument for his own sight by using it exactly like a telescope, and observing some distant object. As soon as this is done the light is turned on, and one end is placed close to the patient's cornea, while the observer looks through the other. The fundus of the observed eye is then seen. To obtain a magnification of from 10 to 15 diameters the lower portion of the instrument is detached, and the objective lens is removed, with the result that an erect image of the fundus is obtained without any light reflexes from the cornea to interfere with the clear view of the picture. It is quite easy for a novice to see the fundus in this way, without the necessity for the eye being put under the influence of a mydriatic. In order to obtain higher magnifications the lens is inserted and the instrument again made complete, when by using it in a similar manner an enlargement of some 70 times is obtained, though naturally when such high powers are used only a very small portion of the fundus is visible at one time, and the instrument must be held very steady; further, it is desirable that the patient's pupil should be dilated. A disc containing lenses is also attached, and by its means a measure of the patient's refraction is obtainable. It is thus seen that this instrument may be used for all purposes for which the ordinary ophthalmoscope is applicable, but in addition it enables the fundus to be very much more magnified without the disturbance caused by corneal reflexes. It may be used by any one in broad daylight, and with little or no previous practice. It is small enough to be easily carried about, and a patient's eyes may be examined when he is lying down or in any other position. Mr. K. Schall, of 75, New Cavendish Street, W., is the agent for the ophthalmofundoscope in England. Its price is £6 15s., and with extra attachments £7 5s.

¹⁶ *When No Man Pursueth*. By Mrs. Belloc Lowndes. London: Heinemann and Co. (Post 8vo, pp. 352. Price 6s.)

¹⁷ *Handbook of Scotch Sanitary Law*. Third edition. By Thos. W. Swanson, Assoc. R. Sanit. Institute, Mem. San. Assoc. Cert., Victoria University. London: Sanitary Publishing Co., Ltd. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 69, 2s. 6d.)

¹⁸ *Public Health*. By W. Robertson, M.D., D.P.H. *The Catechism Series*. Parts I, II, III, IV, and V. Second edition. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 49, 53, 56, 50, and 42 respectively. 1s. each; 5 parts, bound, 4s. 6d.)