

eventual issue, and connected them with one or several imaginary illnesses from which he believed himself to be suffering. The sensations were real, but the construction put upon them was false. The author described the peculiar feelings which the hypochondriac was apt to perceive in the head, digestive tract, heart and lungs, and the pelvic organs, laying stress upon the fact that they were not imaginary, as was often assumed, but that the patients were really ill, and could not possibly get rid of their disease by simply "pulling themselves together," as they were generally recommended to do. He then described the moral and physical consequences which were apt to follow where the primary condition persisted, and spoke of the principal causes and the eventual issue of the complaint. He considered the seat of the disease to be in some special centre of the brain which regulates the sensibility of the viscera of the body, just as the Rolandic convolutions constitute the sensory-motor area for the voluntary muscles. The seat of this centre was as yet uncertain, and might be in the gyrus fornicatus, or in the occipital lobes, or some other portion of the "latent zone" of the cortex. Disturbance of the visceral centre would explain the immense variety of morbid sensations experienced by hypochondriacs. A similar opinion had been held by Sydenham, who, in the language of his day, ascribed hypochondriasis to an unequal distribution and rushing about or ataxy of the animal spirits. The author then entered into the differences of nosophobia from hypochondriasis, stating that in the former there were no distressing visceral sensations, but that the suffering was purely mental, being the fear entertained by the patient that some malady would overtake him. It was essentially temporary, the individual attack of it being always owing to some definite exciting cause, such as an epidemic of cholera or influenza, or some case of disease occurring in a prominent person, which was discussed in the newspaper press. He gave as an instance of this the case of the late Emperor of the French, when operated upon by Sir Henry Thompson, which caused at that time large numbers of persons to fear that they had stone in the bladder. Similar occurrences had come under the author's notice in connection with the cases of the late Crown Prince of Germany and the present Czar of Russia. Where such predisposition once existed, the least unusual sign which might show itself in any part of the body might suffice to set the nosophobic machinery in motion. A variety of nosophobia was a morbid fear of death, or thanatophobia, which had likewise nothing to do with hypochondriasis. Suggestion had little or no influence in hypochondriasis, but was highly effective in nosophobia, where a favourable or unfavourable prognosis given had often a truly wonderful influence on the patient's condition. The nosophobist had as a rule absolute faith in his medical attendant and his prescriptions, while the hypochondriac was often averse to medicine, and convinced of the incurability of his illness. The author concluded his paper with remarks on therapeutics, giving the preference to moral and hygienic treatment over that by drugs.

The PRESIDENT recalled that the late Sir William Gull used to hold very strongly that hypochondriasis never occurred except in people with a family history of insanity.

KIDDERMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

S. STRETTON, M.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

Friday, September 28th, 1894.

INTUSSUSCEPTION.

MR. J. LIONEL STRETTON read notes on a case of intussusception in a man, aged 20. Whilst lifting a 61-gallon barrel of beer from a cart, he suddenly felt a severe pain in the "stomach," which made him drop the barrel. He walked home, about half a mile, and went to bed, when the pain increased, and he began vomiting. He was admitted to the Kidderminster Hospital next day. On the evening of the following day, as the symptoms appeared to be increasing, it was decided to explore the abdomen. On opening the abdominal cavity nothing abnormal was seen. A loop of bowel was withdrawn and traced to the ileum, where an intussusception about 4 inches long was discovered. There were flakes of lymph in the neighbourhood, and considerable difficulty was experienced in reducing the invaginated bowel, which was found to be oedematous and considerably congested. The whole was returned to the abdomen, and the wound closed, a drainage tube leading down to the damaged bowel being inserted. In less than three weeks he was up and about. The case emphasised the advisability of an exploratory operation in doubtful cases.

ABSCESS OF THE LIVER.

MR. J. L. STRETTON also read notes of a case of abscess of the liver, in which a gallon of pus was evacuated in a patient who a fortnight previously had undertaken a journey from the Gold Coast.

CASE AND SPECIMENS.

MR. W. HODGSON MOORE showed a case of Lupus; also specimens of Biliary Calculi removed by operation.

PAPERS.

MR. P. E. DAVIES read a report of a case of Death under Chloroform in the Kidderminster Infirmary.—Mr. P. E. Davies also read a paper on the Diagnosis of Hysteria.

BRADFORD MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

SAMUEL JOHNSTON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Tuesday, October 2nd, 1894.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

THE PRESIDENT delivered an address on Medical and Surgical Progress. The germ theory of disease and Sir Joseph Lister's antiseptic method of treating wounds were briefly alluded to, and advances in the surgical treatment of cerebral, thoracic, and abdominal diseases were noted. With regard to medicine such progress could not be recorded. The tendency of the age was to ascribe all ailments to the presence of bacilli, but yet no remedies had been found for cancer or for tubercle. The fondness of the public for drugs was dwelt upon, the expectant method of treatment finding little favour in popular estimation. In conclusion, the

PRESIDENT compared preventive with curative medicine, and alluded to the possibility of the medical men of the future being State-paid officials.

PAPERS.

DR. MAJOR read a paper on the Clinical Significance of Jaundice with Ascites, insisting on their importance in obscure cases when the ascites was slight, and helping in the diagnosis of cases of cirrhosis and of cancer of the liver. The differential diagnosis and the question of surgical interference were discussed.—MR. MERCER, DR. RABAGLIATI, and MR. HEBBLETHWAITE made remarks, and Dr. MAJOR replied.—DR. RABAGLIATI read notes on a case of Pyosalpinx of Eleven Years' Standing on which he had operated; the patient recovered.—DR. H. BRONNER and MR. HORROCKS read notes on a case of Gastro-Enterostomy. Dr. H. BRONNER gave the medical history—a man with loss of flesh, dilatation of the stomach, and a pyloric tumour, which was reely movable. For a time lavage of the stomach improved the general condition. Mr. HORROCKS, finding on abdominal section that the growth could not be removed, performed gastro-enterostomy, using Littlewood's plates. The patient died on the third day from asthenia. At the *post-mortem* examination no leakage had taken place at the seat of operation. Dr. MAJOR, Dr. GOYDER, and Dr. S. JOHNSTON discussed the papers.

SPECIMENS.

MR. CHAPMAN showed a Large Aneurysm of the Ascending and Transverse parts of the Thoracic Aorta which he had obtained from a woman who died shortly after coming under observation. The symptoms noted during life were violent dyspnoea and stridor, to relieve which tracheotomy was performed just before death. The left recurrent laryngeal nerve on dissection was not stretched, but the anterior wall of the trachea was softened by the pressure of the tumour, and this was probably the cause of the dyspnoea. Microscopical and other specimens were shown by Dr. MAJOR and by Dr. RABAGLIATI.

REVIEWS.

TWO MONOGRAPHS ON MALARIA AND THE PARASITES OF MALARIAL FEVERS. I. MARCHIAFAVA AND BIGNAMI; translated by J. HARRY THOMPSON, M.D. II. MANNABERG; translated by R. W. FELKIN, M.D., F.R.S.E. London: The New Sydenham Society.¹ 1894. (Demy 8vo, pp. 454.)

THE scientific and practical value of modern pathological research is in no instance better exemplified than in Laveran's great discovery and its application to the explanation of the clinical phenomena and diagnosis of malarial fevers. Although the clinical acumen of our predecessors and their employment of the touchstones of periodicity and cinchona had done not a little to separate the malarial from the other fevers, and the sustained labours of such observers as Sydenham and Torti had done something to classify and arrange these malarial fevers in fairly well marked groups, still, until lately, in this department of medicine, Sternberg's and Dutroulau's remark that "all is chaos," was in a great measure only too true. At one bound Laveran's discovery has put us in possession of the means of bringing order out of this chaos, and at the same time it has opened to our view fields for research the limits of which are very far-reaching. It is a matter for regret that our countrymen have done so little work in this department; it cannot be said that they have made any very original contribution to the literature of the micro-biology of malaria. Indeed, until the wisdom of the New Sydenham Society gave us the recently-issued translation of Laveran's last work and the translations under notice, we had to rely almost entirely on foreign works for detailed information on this most important subject.

Of the two works under notice, that by MARCHIAFAVA and BIGNAMI treats more especially of the summer-autumn malarial fevers as met with at Rome, that by MANNABERG on the malarial parasites generally. While the former deals very thoroughly—perhaps somewhat diffusely—with the special and more restricted subject to which it is particularly devoted, it, at the same time, summarises all the more important facts and conclusions as to the non-malignant winter and spring tertian and quartan fevers. Mannaberg's work appears, however, to be the more useful for the student new to this subject, and certainly ought to be mastered before the more special and intricate work of the Italian authors is grappled with. In both treatises there is much new and original matter, and necessarily, a considerable amount of hypothesis—Mannaberg's explanation of the formation of the crescent forms of the malaria organism for example. This writer details very clearly his reasons for re-

¹ The annual subscription to the New Sydenham Society is 41 ls. Agent: Mr. H. K. Lewis, 13, Gower Street, London, W.

garding these puzzling bodies as syzygia, the result of conjugation and subsequently encystment of pairs of malarial amoebæ, a process similar to what occurs in many of the protozoa. Mannaberg's work is of especial value as conclusively demonstrating that the malarial parasite is possessed of a nucleus and nucleolus; by showing this he definitively settles that it is a specific organism and not merely, as some sceptics have maintained, and do maintain, a degeneration of the blood corpuscles. A knowledge of the facts these works describe is indispensable for teachers of medicine and pathology everywhere, and for all practitioners in malarial countries. In parts the translations are excellent; in other places they may be somewhat obscure or not quite idiomatic. In a great many places in the translation of Mannaberg there are, we are sorry to have to remark, such evidences of haste or carelessness as mis-translations (for example, p. 372, substitution of the word "quotidian" for "quartan" in an important table), and, very frequently, wrong references to the figures in the beautiful and valuable plates. These are minor matters, however, which, though blemishes, do not seriously detract from the value of this last contribution to medical literature for which we are indebted to the New Sydenham Society.

THE MAKING OF THE BODY: A Children's Book on Physiology and Anatomy. By Mrs. S. A. BARNETT. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. (Small 8vo. 1s. 9d.)

THIS admirable little book should be in the hands of every English-speaking child, and also of every person engaged in teaching children. Entering with a sympathy which is unique in such a book into the minds of children, the author makes plain to them in a peculiarly picturesque manner the abstruse facts of physiology and anatomy. Nothing is shirked; all that is necessary to know is clearly explained, and also pictorially represented by numerous and well-selected illustrations. Hard names are avoided, and descriptive synonyms are substituted for the Latin nomenclature, which is printed in brackets.

When the subject is unusually difficult to the comprehension of a childish mind, as, for instance, the part played by the cerebro-spinal and sympathetic nervous systems, it is taught by means of an allegory suggested by daily life. Thus the brain is represented as the father of the household, who thinks, directs, and wills for the good of all; the spinal cord as the devoted mother, who takes upon herself the work which need not be referred to the head of the house for decision; and the sympathetic system by the willing daughter, who manages simple affairs without troubling either father or mother, though in matters of difficulty she has free access to both.

In this way the writer tells her story, not minimising the scientific side, nor the difficulties of any of the subjects, but making the reader feel all the time that the story is one of deep interest and importance to himself. Thus the journey of the food, of the air, of the blood, through the body, the journey of a sensation, of an odour, of a word, of light, are all graphically described.

As we read this little book we recall the unintentionally comic answers frequently given by national and school board children to examination questions set them in physiology and anatomy, answers which serve to show the deplorable depths of ignorance and the confusion of mind in which clumsy attempts to teach difficult subjects has left them. And we are disposed to hope that if Mrs. BARNETT'S *Making of the Body* be used as the standard textbook of physiology and anatomy in future in national and board schools, such answers will become a thing of the past, and a clear understanding of facts will take the place of a blundering memory of meaningless words. We trust that it will be so adopted. It is, in our opinion, of great importance that in these days of true science and pseudo-science, and of popular agitation on scientific subjects misunderstood and misrepresented, that children in their earliest years should be correctly instructed in biological principles and facts. Of all subjects important to the human race there are few more so than a correct knowledge of the structure and functions of the human body. In writing this lucid explanation for children as to how the body is made and how it works, Mrs. Barnett has added one more service to those already rendered by her to the community.

AN AMERICAN TEXTBOOK OF THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN. By American Teachers. Edited by LOUIS STARR, M.D.; assisted by THOMPSON S. WESTCOTT, M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1894. London: F. J. Rebman. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 2004. 7 dollars.)

THE literature of disease in children is growing with great rapidity, and the want is more and more felt of compendious summaries of the new observations, new theories, and new or improved methods of treatment, which are constantly being made public in periodical literature. Dr. STARR, in editing the large volume before us, took a comprehensive view of his duties, and worked upon a well-considered plan. He obtained the assistance of a large staff of collaborators from the most important medical centres in America, and he succeeded in getting the work through the press sufficiently quickly to ensure that the several articles retained the freshness of recent writing. In his aim to make the textbook fresh, comprehensive, and authoritative, he has succeeded, we think it may fairly be said; but he can hardly be congratulated on achieving another object which he states in his preface he had in view—namely, to accomplish his task within the covers of one readily-handled volume. The book is big, and weighs, we find, nearly half a stone. Still any objection which may be felt to the book on the ground of bulk is of but secondary importance if the reader finds within its covers information upon all the points upon which he is likely to consult it.

The book is arranged logically, and is provided with an excellent index, so that it is easy to consult, and so far as we have hitherto been able to test it we have not failed to find an adequate note upon the various subjects which ought to find a place in such a volume. The articles are amply illustrated by coloured and tinted drawings, woodcuts, and photographic reproductions, which are, as a rule, really illustrative of the various subjects, and in many cases of a high order of artistic excellence. In particular, we may mention many of the woodcuts and photographs introduced into the articles on diseases of the nervous system, and some of the coloured plates showing diseases of the skin. There is also an excellent, if somewhat highly coloured, lithograph of the so-called "geographical tongue" of mucous disease, and very excellent reproductions of photographs of rhagades and of Hutchinson's teeth apparently from the same case. The lithographs of micro-organisms are excellent and instructive, but the ordinary reproductions of photomicrographs are, as seems to be almost always the case, failures.

It would be impossible within the limits of our space to discuss in detail the various articles, from numerous hands, which go to make up the volume; but we may notice that those on nervous disease and on insanity and idiocy in children have been prepared with great care, and present some points of novelty. We may instance articles on Tumours of the Brain and Meninges, and on Infantile Cerebral Palsies, by Dr. Frederick Peterson; Dr. J. H. Lloyd's article on Hysteria, and a series of articles by Dr. Charles K. Mills on Nervous Conditions, commonly lumped together as Functional. Dr. Casselberry contributes the articles on Diseases of the Nose, Pharynx, and Naso-Pharynx, in which the importance of many of the common disorders of these regions in their bearing on general health is fully recognised. The article on Tuberculosis, from the pen of Dr. William Osler, is a model in its conciseness and methodical arrangement. Dr. Lewis Smith writes the article on Rickets, which contains a very complete study of the subject in the light of the more recent clinical observations. The classification of the Diseases of the Digestive Organs is not altogether satisfactory, as it has been found necessary to retain a group of "Diarrhoeal Diseases," which do not really form a distinct pathological class. The selection of the terms "acute milk infection" and "sub-acute milk infection," which we believe are novelties of nomenclature in a systematic work, does not seem to have much to recommend it. While saying so much, we admit freely that since at the present day neither morbid anatomy nor bacteriology affords satisfactory bases for a classification, the matter is one of very considerable difficulty.

On the whole, the book may be highly commended, its special excellence lying in the fact that the majority of the

writers have frankly embodied in their articles the most recent clinical and pathological observations.

DIE BERIBERI-KRANKHEIT: EINE GEOGRAPHISCH-MEDICINISCHE STUDIE. Von Dr. B. SCHEUBE. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1894. (Royal 8vo; pp. 228; 2 lithographic plates. M. 9.)

WE have had quite a number of books and papers lately on the subject of beri-beri. Unfortunately, with all this literary activity, although it may serve the good purpose of making this important disease better known, there has been no material advance in the knowledge of its pathology and treatment since the date—now some twelve years ago—when the writer of this book and his countryman, Bälz, first proved by clinical, histological, and electrical investigation that beri-beri is really in its nature an endemic form of multiple peripheral neuritis, and to this extent pathologically in the same category as diphtheritic, alcoholic, and other and better known forms of neuritis. Later, Pekelharing and Winkler, to whose excellent work we have frequently alluded, confirmed and extended the findings of SCHEUBE and Bälz, and made a vigorous, but not altogether successful, effort to establish the bacterial origin of the disease. They even went the length of assigning it to a certain micrococcus. In the present work Scheube gives a careful, exhaustive, and well-balanced description of beri-beri, prefacing his description of the disease by a learned and highly interesting chapter on the history of our knowledge of the subject. The symptoms are very well described, but the main value of the work is in the careful analysis of these symptoms, and in their association with the histology of the lesions of the nervous and muscular systems. Naturally, and with reason, in view of his earlier publications, Scheube resents the claim made by Pekelharing and Winkler, that it was they who established the true pathology of this disease. We quite agree with Scheube that it is to him and to Bälz that the merit of this important discovery belongs, and that any merit Pekelharing and Winkler have in the matter is entirely secondary; they confirmed, and, perhaps, in the matter of the electrical reactions of the muscles slightly extended the investigations of Scheube and Bälz—nothing more. Scheube further points out the very unsatisfactory nature of Pekelharing and Winkler's, as well as many other investigators', bacteriological work, and the fallacy of the conclusions they and others have founded on their cultivations and experiments.

The chapters on the conditions under which beri-beri originates and thrives, and on the epidemiology of the disease, are somewhat meagre and the weakest part of an otherwise most admirable treatise. The work has the merit of having been founded on a large and carefully-recorded personal experience of the disease in Japan and Java. It has not been written in a hurry. The opinions expressed have been arrived at only after twelve years' reflection and much study of all the best contemporary literature. We have no hesitation, therefore, in saying that this is not only one of the most original works on beri-beri which have yet appeared, but that it is, perhaps, in many respects the best.

ELEMENTARY TREATISE ON NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. By A. PRIVAT DESCHANEL. Thirteenth English Edition. Edited by J. D. EVERETT, M.A. London: Blackie and Son. 1894. (Demy 8vo, pp. 324. 18s.)

WE welcome the thirteenth edition of this standard work as a very substantial addition to current scientific literature. The work itself is too well known to need detailed description at our hands; we will confine ourselves to mentioning some of the principal additions to this edition, which bring the work well up to date and reinstate it in its position among the first rank of general physical textbooks. The *Treatise* has been entirely recast with the exception of the portions relating to the comparatively stationary subjects of mechanics, hydrostatics, and acoustics. Much of the matter has been rearranged for greater lucidity, new matter has been largely introduced into old chapters, and some entirely new chapters on special modern subjects have been added.

In Part I will be found the latest information respecting

weather prediction and weather charts. In Part II a new chapter on thermodynamics has been added, in which free use is made of the differential calculus. Entropy is explained and several examples are given of the deduction of physical relations by changing the order of differentiation. Among the more important additions to this part will be found a description of Dewar's experiments on liquid oxygen and a statement of Van der Waal's theory. In Part III, as might be expected, the rapid progress of electrical science in recent years has made sweeping changes necessary, necessitating the addition of two complete chapters. In Part IV, again, almost equally extensive changes have been made. The chapter on the wave theory has been greatly enlarged, and among other attractions a new chapter has been added dealing with the modern subject of systems of coaxial lenses.

We congratulate the editor, who now is joint author, on the excellent and reliable textbook he has produced.

HANDBUCH DER PRAKTISCHEN GEWERBEHYGIENE. [Handbook of the Practical Hygiene of Trades.] Herausgegeben von Dr. H. ALBRECHT. Berlin: Gustav Schmidt. 1894. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 192. M. 4.50.)

THE first division of this work on the hygiene of trades is now before us, and gives promise of becoming one of the most important and valuable treatises on the subject. It is less prolix than Hirt's great work, and has the further merit of being up to date. This first part addresses itself more particularly to medical men than the three divisions yet to follow. It deals with the incidents of manufacturing processes and of labour concerned in producing disease among the employed, and is written by Dr. A. Villaret, of Spandau. In a subsection by Dr. ALBRECHT, the accidental and contributory causes of injuries among artisans are taken in hand; whilst in yet another, by Dr. W. Oppermann, the construction and arrangements of factories are the topics discussed.

Statistics figure only to a small extent in these several sections; in that on accidents they are the most prominent.

The prospectus of the entire work shows that it is not specially addressed to the medical profession, but that it aims at being a handbook for practical sanitarians in the matter of the sanitation of factories, and also for architects and engineers concerned with the construction and fittings of those establishments. Even in the first section on the diseases of trades, the purpose of the work to suit unprofessional as well as professional readers is apparent; for the writer has deemed it necessary to give elementary information respecting the composition of the atmosphere and the physiology of the circulation and respiration, and has laid particular stress upon the effects of breathing vitiated air.

The subject of dust next engages his attention, and is well elucidated. He establishes three classes of dusts, with reference to their modification—namely, (1) those harmless in themselves, but damaging when inhaled in large quantity; (2) those possessing some noxious qualities, but not energetic as a cause of disease, unless in quantity; (3) those acting injuriously upon lung tissue by reason of the irregularity or pointed and ragged state of the particles. For dust acts not only directly by the shape of its atoms, but likewise by diminishing the area and freedom of respiration; or else by uniting with the moisture of the mucous membrane in tenacious masses, and so blocking the respiratory passages. Having shown that dust makes its way into the finer bronchial tubes and into the actual cells of the lungs, he gives an excellent sketch of the minute changes caused thereby, which result in the production of dense fibrosis. Another topic enlarged upon is the relation of dust-made lung disease to lung tuberculosis. He distinguishes between the two lesions, and holds that dust, *per se*, is never a cause of tuberculous phthisis, although the one lesion is often enough coincident with the other. An explanation of this fact is to be found in the tuberculous and family history surroundings of patients.

Considered with regard to their nature and origin, dusts are divided into three varieties—animal, vegetable, and mineral. This done, each kind of dust is next examined in detail

¹ To be completed in four divisions, subscription price 20 marks.

in connection with the trade wherein it is developed, but the nature of the processes most concerned in setting it free is not described. As a matter of course, this portion of the treatise is one of detail, and is commendable by its completeness and accuracy.

In conclusion, viewing the treatise as a whole, it is succinct and clear, and presents an excellent outline of the subject. We conclude with this parting observation, that its writers, as too often happens with foreign works, exhibit very scant knowledge of what has been published outside their own country.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Frog: an Introduction to Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology. By A. MILNES MARSHALL, M.D., F.R.S., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Fifth edition. (Manchester: J. E. Cornish. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1894. Crown 8vo, pp. 172. 4s.)—We congratulate Mr. C. Herbert Hurst on the able and expeditious manner in which he is editing and publishing the late Professor Milnes Marshall's literary works. In this the fifth edition of Professor Marshall's well-known manual, the editor states that he has made no change of importance. The principal changes made by the author are confined to the chapter on embryology, in which some new figures have been introduced and some mistakes corrected. This little manual is too well known to need description or praise at our hands.

Bibliographie der klinischen Helminthologie [Bibliography of Clinical Helminthology]. Heft 7 and 8. Von Dr. J. Ch. HUBER. (Munich: J. F. Lehmann. 1894. Roy. 8vo, pp. 247-305. M. 3.60.)—The publication of two new fasciculi of this valuable work gives us the opportunity of again calling the attention of pathologists and helminthologists to it. The present issue deals with the bibliography of *dracunculus*, *filaria sanguinis*, and of the trematodes. It is wonderfully complete and almost up to date. As an aid to literary research this work is simply invaluable, and an enormous saving in the matter of time and temper. Judging from the "(!)" after the date, 1875, of the publication of that section of Leuckart's *Parasiten* which refers to the nematodes, it is evident that Dr. Huber shares the general impatience of helminthologists at the delay there has been in the appearance of this section of the second edition of what is undoubtedly the most important helminthological work which has yet appeared. We trust that Leuckart may take the hint so delicately expressed.

On Alcohol as a Medicine. By FREDERIC C. COLEY, M.D. (London: National Temperance Publication Depot. 1894. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 15. 1d.)—In this pamphlet Dr. Coley deals with the therapeutic place of alcohol in an unprejudiced spirit. He begins judiciously with the statement that he is not prepared to maintain that alcohol is entirely valueless as a medicine. He aims at exposing such popular fallacies as that alcohol is useful as a medicine in all diseases. He rightly points out that alcohol is hurtful in many diseased states. He strongly condemns the usual domestic administration of spirits to young women for the relief of neuralgia and dysmenorrhœa.

Ferris and Co.'s Medical Visiting List and Ledger.—These visiting lists or daybooks are made in two forms—one for the list to be made out once a week the other once a month. Both are of the "perpetual" type, that is, they will do for any year, and as many pages as are required may be used for any month or week. They are bound up in thin volumes, easily carried in the pocket, so that one is not burdened on one's rounds with the whole year's accounts. They are clearly, one might even say daintily, ruled, and for any practitioner who eschews the old bad plan of making separate charges for each draught and mixture he dispenses, ample space is afforded for any such code of signs as he may invent to indicate his visits, medicines, and consultations. Of the ledger we cannot speak in such favourable terms. Of its class it is good,

but we are inclined to doubt the advantage of the whole tribe of what one may call alphabetical ledgers, nor do we see any special advantage in splitting up accounts into what is here termed a "monthly summary," and the nuisance of having to add money "sideways" must be patent to anyone who has ever done it.

The Use of Antiseptics in Midwifery. By ROBERT BOXALL, M.D. (London: H. K. Lewis. 1894. Pp. 35, with two charts. Demy 8vo, pp. 36. 1s.)—This pamphlet contains two lectures delivered to his class by the author. It is a clear exposition of the value and practical application of antiseptics in midwifery practice. A specially important part of it deals with the chemical incompatibility of antiseptic agents. We notice that the author recommends the disinfection of the forceps by steeping in boiling water. In view of the difficulty of carrying this out, a 1 in 20 solution of carbolic acid is to be preferred. Everyone will agree in the recommendation of 1 in 1,000 sublimate solution for the disinfection of the hands, but many will hesitate to use 1 in 2,000 before and after delivery, as recommended by the author. Attention is not called to the excellent results obtained in Germany without vaginal douching. On the whole, however, we can highly recommend these lectures to those who wish to learn something of the value and scientific use of antiseptics in midwifery.

The Law of District and Parish Councils, being the Local Government Act 1894, etc. By JOHN LITHBY, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law. (London: Eppingham Wilson. 1894. Demy 8vo, pp. 515.)—There are already before the public several works, large and small, dealing with the Local Government Act of 1894 from various points of view and with various degrees of lucidity. Mr. Lithby's is the latest and, in many respects, the best. It gives, not only the text of the Act, with notes and references wherever required, but also a clear and most valuable summary of its provisions as affecting county, district, and parish councils, and parish meetings respectively, point by point. This feature of the work will be especially appreciated by non-legal readers, to whom the Act itself presents many difficulties. A further point of obvious convenience is the reproduction of the principal statutes bearing upon the duties of the new local authorities of each rank, and also the orders and circulars issued by the Local Government Board. Lastly, there is a full and well arranged index. The work is admirably adapted to the needs of medical officers of health and other members of the profession who have to do with local administrative bodies in any capacity.

Pathologie und Therapie der Perityphlitis [Pathology and Treatment of Perityphlitis]. *Appendicitis simplex et perforativa.* Von Professor Dr. SONNENBURG. (Leipzig: E. C. W. Vogel. 1894. Royal 8vo, pp. 147.)—This monograph is based on some 78 cases of the disease treated by operation by the author. It is divided into the following parts: (1) Introduction; (2) Pathological anatomy, by Dr. Finkelstein; (3) Clinical part, including brief details of the cases; and (4) an appendix concerning the vermiform process in the hernial sac by Dr. Sarfert. Professor Sonnenburg is well known as one of the leaders in the question of the early operative treatment of perityphlitis, and how widely his views differed from those of his colleagues was very apparent from a discussion in one of the Berlin medical societies some little time ago. His contention is that in all cases of perforative appendicitis pus is present, and that perforative appendicitis is the real ("eigenliche") perityphlitis (p. 13). Apart from other considerations it may be open to great doubt whether the majority of cases of perityphlitis as usually seen are really of this perforative variety. Of the 78 cases of appendicitis, 5 are classed as simple, 53 as perforative without complications, 8 as perforative with complications, and 12 as perforative and septic (on admission). Of the last group all died, and of the 8 with complications 3 were fatal, while all the others recovered. This classification is certainly not entirely free from objection for statistical purposes. Where the appendix is not removed, as in some of these cases, a patient cannot be said to be free from risk of relapse unless under observation for a long time. Although some patients