

chemistry, legal medicine, and hygiene. The section on therapeutics is, we are glad to find, proportionately developed; it contains references to the Finsen light treatment, the use of the different serums, the newer synthetic remedies, and the different organic extracts. The section dealing with abstract pathological questions, such as toxins, agglutination and immunity, are succinct, clear, and up-to-date. The sections on general medicine and children's diseases attain no less high a level of excellence.

The surgical volume covers an equally wide area of science, inasmuch as it includes obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, otology, nasal and laryngeal diseases, and even anatomy. There are interesting sections on gunshot wounds and on the use of the Roentgen rays. Enough has been said to show that if the practitioner is determined to make some sacrifice of time in order to keep abreast of advances in medical science, and to gain a knowledge of valuable methods in their earlier stages, he really needs no other help than that afforded in these two volumes whereby he may reach in a reasonable degree those commendable ends.

DE L'ANCHYLOSTOME DUODÉNAL EN GÉNÉRAL ET DE SA PROPAGATION EN BELGIQUE. (A General, Scientific, Medical, and Prophylactic Study of the Ankylostoma Duodenale and its Propagation in Belgium). Par Dr. HYAC. KUBORN Brussels: Hayez. 1900. (Demy 8vo., p. 76).

THIS little work is written by one who has had exceptional opportunities for studying the diseases of miners over a long period, and the record of his observations on ankylostomiasis amongst these workers must be regarded as authoritative. The writer brings out very clearly the fact that the anæmia which was so frequently met with in miners thirty or forty years ago was not due to ankylostomiasis but was brought about by bad hygienic conditions. The miners in those days worked excessively long hours in a vitiated and often poisonous atmosphere. They were badly fed, and their work was more exhausting than it is at the present time when so many labour-saving appliances are employed. The symptoms of this form of anæmia were quite different from those of ankylostomiasis. The anæmia was of the chronic and chlorotic type, with pallor, dyspnœa, palpitations, œdema, etc., and with marked fall in the hæmoglobin value of the red corpuscles. The anæmia most frequently met with amongst miners in Belgium to-day, which is undoubtedly due to ankylostomiasis, is quite different. The symptoms are more acute with pronounced and early gastro-intestinal troubles. The stools are occasionally sanguinolent. The red corpuscles diminish in number rather than in hæmoglobin value. It does not respond to iron, as was the case with the old anæmia of miners. The first appearance of ankylostomiasis in Belgium seems to have been in 1884; that is, about five years after it was recognised as existing amongst the workers in the St. Gothard Tunnel. It is assumed that the labourers, on the completion of the work, travelled to various parts of Europe, carrying their parasites with them. It is interesting to observe that the ankylostoma duodenale has been able to thrive at a temperature so low as that met with in Belgium. It is generally believed that the parasite requires a much higher temperature (70° to 80° F.) for its development.

The book contains a fairly good and accurate account of the life history of the ankylostoma duodenale, but no new facts are brought to light. The prophylactic measures that are recommended are both practical and to the point.

ERRATUM.—The price of Dr. Cullen's *Cancer of the Uterus*, a review of which was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 19th, p. 157, should have been given as 3s. 6d., and not as printed.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE 62nd annual volume of *Hart's Army List* (London: John Murray, 21s.) has been published. Its contents are too well known to need recapitulation here. Suffice it to say that very large additions have been made to the war services by giving those of many officers now serving in South Africa. Much,

however, remains to be done in this connection, and the services of the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps are by no means complete on this head. Perhaps, however, individual officers are themselves largely responsible for this, through not having responded to the editor's request to be kept supplied with the desired information. The volume is well posted up to date, a list of New Year honours being included. Besides the usual well-known contents, lists are added of the officers of the Royal Reserve Regiments, of the Imperial Yeomanry, Lord Strathcona's Corps, Colonel Lumsden's Corps, the City of London Imperial Volunteers, and of the Volunteer officers serving in South Africa.

The Management and Diseases of the Dog (London: Swan Sonnenschein. 1900. Cr. 8vo, pp. 540. 10s. 6d.) is a rather strange mixture. The writer, Mr. John Woodroffe Hill, F.R.C.V.S., is clearly anxious to be considered an authority on pathology; he writes, indeed, that he has "made canine pathology a *specialism*," yet is it abundantly clear that he is often sadly weak in his "specialism," whereas in practical matters he would seem to be well versed, if not always a safe guide. The confusions and contradictions into which he is sometimes led, owing to the clashing between his pathological "specialism" and his practical knowledge and observation, are well illustrated by his chapter on rabies and by the preface which deals with the same subject. There is a long appendix of nearly one hundred pages, giving the points for judging various breeds of dogs, and the appeal which the book makes to the dog fancier is emphasised by a number of reproductions of very excellent photographs of dogs by Mr. Thomas Fall—described by Mr. Hill in his preface, with an inaccuracy which really appears to be characteristic, as F.R.C.P. instead of F.R.P.S., which letters are printed under the pictures, and stand, we presume, for Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. To a reader who knows how to avoid the too numerous pitfalls which the author has left in the way of the unwary the book is likely to be useful.

PLAGUE IN EGYPT.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

IN the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 22nd, 1900, there was published from the pen of a Constantinople correspondent an article on plague in which the following words occur: "The plague in Egypt during the past summer has been of the character of a very mild but lingering outbreak."

This statement gives an erroneous impression of the actual condition of affairs obtaining in Egypt during the time in question. The outbreaks of plague were two in number, each of them marked by certain definite characteristics, and each of them modified by local circumstances of a peculiar nature. The towns involved were Alexandria and Port Said.

ALEXANDRIA.

It will be remembered that this city was the subject of a sharp outbreak of the disease in the previous year; opinion is divided as to whether the second appearance of the disease in 1900 was due to a mere recrudescence of a latent infection remaining undealt with in the previous year, or whether it was due to a true reintroduction of the disease from without; but however interesting this problem may be, in default of reliable and conclusive evidence it is fruitless to pursue it.

Suffice it to say, that on May 7th, 1900, the first case of the new outbreak was recognised in the person of a female ragpicker who was found dead in a remote quarter of the city. Largely occupied by warehouses chiefly devoted to the collection and storage of rags, of cotton, and of cereals, it is infested with rats and peopled by the lower classes of Europeans and natives engaged in the various occupations associated with these warehouses. Other cases occurred at short intervals in the same quarter; then more cases again in another; then in a third, and so on, in such a way that the disease really showed itself in the different districts of this city of 370,000 inhabitants as a series of small scattered outbreaks which met, sooner or later, by effective sanitary measures, rapidly died