

Mosquito or Man? The Conquest of the Tropical World. By Sir Rubert W. Boyce, M. B., F. R. S. Illustrated. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 8vo, \$3.50.

A vigorous campaign of prevention has been carried on in recent years against all insect-borne diseases. *Mosquito or Man?* by Sir Rubert Boyce, is a distinct contribution to the literature of this subject, so vital to the public health. The sub-title is *The Conquest of the Tropical World*; nevertheless, the problems presented spread beyond the tropics and directly concern the public health everywhere. The preface states that in this study, "Nations possess a force which above all others can wrest vast provinces from the sway of the insect pests, which, tho minute in size, yet in their aggregate mass have defied and hurled back man when he has ventured in their domain." The book begins with a description of the tropical medicine movement in England, by whose scientists most of the work has been done. The author follows the history of the growth of sanitation in the tropics out of the superstition and traditions of the "so-called deadly miasm," a convenient term to cover all causes of disease, to the present time, when science has at last placed the responsibility for the transmission of many diseases upon the real offender, the insect. It was as late as 1891 that Dr. Theobald Smith established the first real proof of the transmission of a disease by an insect. One of the leading dictionaries in 1890 defined malaria as "a disease emanating from the soil"! Since Professor Smith proved that Texas fever was conveyed by a tick it has been shown that insects, either mechanically or acting as intermediate hosts, transmit bubonic plague, consumption, typhoid, erysipelas, leprosy, yellow fever, filariasis, tick fever and many other diseases. Professor Boyce tells of the work of the earlier investigators, but for some reason fails to mention that of Professor Smith. He then gives an historical survey of the relation of the mosquito to filaria, to malaria, to yellow fever, and the plans of campaign tried against this dangerous insect. The suggestions requiring the co-operation of the people and the Government in this work are thoroly practical. In part, too, he considers sleeping

sickness, the relation of flies to disease, hookworm disease, Malta fever, the "rise and fall of disease," plague, tick fever, leprosy and tuberculosis. The forces of sanitary reform exterminating these diseases have been improved ways of living, less overcrowding, refuse removal and destruction, sewerage and water supplies, better food, hospitals for the isolation of suspected cases and medical inspection. Tho in special works and monographs much of this material has previously appeared, this book brings together in a single readable volume an excellent résumé of the subject up to date. There is a large number of admirable illustrations.