

should be so made as to be large enough to admit of warm clothing being worn underneath, special care being taken in regiments of British Infantry to have the coats made easy at the throat, and thus obviate the necessity of men unhooking and unbuttoning them when climbing a hill; and (ii) in view of the dry climate of the Punjab, and in order that the buff leather accoutrements and boots may be kept in good and serviceable condition at all times, directions have been given that all leather accoutrements, except buff belts, should be periodically moistened with dubbing, especially during the hot weather; and that in the case of boots they should be well soaked with castor oil on being issued to the men.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN CANTONMENTS.

A NOTIFICATION appears in a recent *Gazette of India*, adding a rule under the Cantonments Act, by which certain persons are required to give information of infectious or contagious disorders within cantonment lines.

Medical practitioners, owners of houses, and persons attending those suffering from disease, are instanced as those who must furnish information. The rule will not apply to cases of venereal disease, when the patient is under specific and adequate treatment, and by reason of habits, conditions of life and of residence is unlikely to spread the disease. Failure to report, or the furnishing of false information, will involve a fine up to Rs. 50. The new rule, we believe, has been framed on the model of the regulations enforced in Norway and Sweden.

KANTHACK SUBSCRIPTION FUND.

THE late talented Professor of Pathology at Cambridge, who must have been personally known to many of our readers in connection with his visit to this country, has by his enthusiastic devotion to the study of disease left his widow and family very badly off financially. An appeal is being made on the behalf of the latter for funds, by Dr. J. H. Drysdale, 25, Welbeck Street, London, W., who will gladly acknowledge all contributions for this deserving object.

Reviews.

The American Year-Book of Medicine and Surgery.—Illustrated. Edited by GEORGE M. GOULD, M.D. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, U. S. A., pp. 1200. Price \$ 6.50. 1898.

THIS magnificent work, of over one thousand pages, has been prepared under the able editorship of Dr. G. M. Gould, assisted by a staff of specialists selected from the foremost members of the Medical Profession in America. It is impossible, within the limits of a short review, to do justice to the merits of this undertaking,

brilliant alike in conception and execution. We know of no book with similar aims which will compare with it. Our own *Year-Book* and *Medical Annual*, good as they are and handy for reference, are as the rush-light to the arc lamp when tested by the standard of this work.

The general plan of the book is somewhat similar to that of other year-books, but it is much more thoroughly elaborated. Each division commences with a *general summary of the year's work*, in that particular direction, and this is followed in turn by summaries of all the more important papers, dealing with the particular diseases, *etc.*, included in this division, which have appeared in medical journals and transactions throughout the world during the preceding one or two years—in this case, 1896 and 1897. Where necessary, an editorial commentary in elucidation of the article summarised is attached. The summaries themselves are mostly of sufficient length and clearness to obviate any necessity for reference to the original articles. Amongst a mass of material we have selected a few items of special interest.

Typhoid fever is dealt with in all its aspects. The good results of cold-water treatment are emphasised, and a special and most complete table is given of the *results of the Widal test* by observers from all parts of Europe and America. The table shews that, of 3500 applications of the test by competent observers, a positive reaction was obtained in 95.5% of typhoid cases, whilst there was no reaction in 98.4% of non-typhoid cases. It is clearly demonstrated, also, that the apparent failure of the test is almost invariably due to faulty methods or to errors in the clinical history.

Short summaries of recent work, Indian and otherwise, in relation to plague and cholera are given. Malaria is fully treated and much of the greatest interest is recorded. Hehli's assertion that he has found the organism of malaria in marsh water is mentioned, with the editorial note that "unfortunately no details are given of the appearance of the organism as found outside the body," an omission which doubtless received the attention of all who read the original article.

Under *Anæsthesia and Anæsthetics* several articles of great interest are summarised, notably those of Hewitt, Treves and Sheild in the *Practitioner* for October, 1896. In Hewitt's article, which strikes us as being specially able and impartial, it is pointed out that the practice of administering the same anæsthetic without regarding the nature of the operation or the type of the subject is a thing of the past. [?] Successful administrators vary their anæsthetics and the mode of giving them according to the circumstances of each case. Modern surgery requires that all the patients shall be saved, but it may be required that one patient be absolutely immobile, that another be less

deeply anæsthetised, and that a third be very slightly under the anæsthetic. A very important development in the modern knowledge of the subject is the recognition of the advantage of profound anæsthesia over light anæsthesia in most instances. * * * Experience has taught us that, within certain limits, the state by the patient's heart may be entirely disregarded. * * * The truth of the matter is that patients with strong hearts are more liable to pass suddenly into a dangerous condition than those with feebler circulation. The advisability of commencing with ether or with A. C. E. mixture and continuing with chloroform is evidenced as something new; but we remember the late Professor Rutherford of Edinburgh insisting on this about twenty years ago. In the editorial remarks, special stress is laid upon the frequency with which surgeons pick out the less competent person to give the anæsthetic and the more competent to assist at the operation. "To ask a person to give an anæsthetic should be considered an evidence of confidence, not of disdain."

In reference to the leading article, published recently in the *Indian Medical Gazette* on the radical cure of hernia, it is interesting to note that the book under review gives a very full account of the most modern developments in this direction. Two important papers, by De Garmo and Coley, are specially worthy of notice. The former writer lays great stress on the importance of ascertaining, before operation on the male, whether a urethral discharge exists, and if so, of curing this before attempting to operate. Personally, we must confess to belonging to the rank of the sceptics regarding the value of radical cure; but after reading the papers quoted in this volume we are more than half converted to the opposite view. Says the Editor: "Coley's study and DeGarmo's paper constitute an absolute answer to those who do not believe in the radical operation. Such a low mortality speaks for itself." Coley operated on 360 cases with 1 death, due to double pneumonia from ether. He gives a table shewing 300 Bassini operations with 1 death and 3 relapses, 280 of these cases having been carefully traced. Primary union took place in 97% of cases. These results are a great improvement on those obtained even by the best surgeons and under most favourable conditions prior to the present decade.

Under Gynecology we are glad to note that, with reference to a paper by Matwieff on *Bathing during Menstruation*, the Editors write: "The fear of bathing during menstruation is one of the teachings handed down to us for generations, and is purely fictitious. It is, however, so firmly educated into womankind that it will take a generation or two to remove it. There is no reason why any healthy woman should not bathe during menstruation, with proper precautions against subsequent cold. There is no reason why a woman should allow

her person to go unclean at the time of all others it needs cleansing."

Under Nervous and Mental Diseases, an important paper by Alexander Lambert on cases of *Insolation* in New York is referred to. A preliminary report on the changes observed in the nervous system in three fatal cases is included. "Sections were examined from the special cord, cerebellum and various portions of the cerebrum, and all showed more or less pronounced changes in the chromophile plaques of the ganglion-cells. These were sometimes changed in shape and reduced in number; at other times they were broken into fine dust, and in others had entirely disappeared. The nucleus is stained more deeply than normal with methylene-blue, and abnormal spheric granules appear. It is supposed by Van Gieson (who made the examinations) that these conditions show an acute auto-intoxication, and that this may be considered the basis of insolation." The paper is of special interest in the light of Dr. Sambon's attempt to include insolation amongst the so-called microbic diseases.

A paper dealing with a case of *auto-extirpation of the Larynx* by Szigeti, is noted in the division of Legal Medicine. This case of suicide was so remarkable that its possibility could hardly have been entertained had not the circumstances excluded homicide. The suicide was a woman, aged 42, and an illustration is appended showing the injuries inflicted. "A table-knife was used, the first cut being made downward with the head thrown back, the larynx being thus probably grasped by the hand and excised by a series of sawing cuts. Death followed in eight hours. The carotids, jugulars and vagi were intact. One similar case is on record (by Jameson), in which the victim removed half of one side of his larynx and brought it himself to the hospital, where he sought relief."

The book includes sections on Anatomy, Physiology and Physiologic Chemistry, in addition to all the ordinary subjects, and its general style and get-up is beyond criticism. There is an excellent index at the end. It only remains to say that we have rarely seen a book which appears to us to be so nearly indispensable to the library of every medical institution and of every medical man who wishes to keep himself *au fait* with any or every branch of his profession.

The Sanitation of British Troops in India.—

By E. CARRICK FREEMAN, Captain, R.A.M.C. London: REBMAN PUBLISHING Co. Pp. 106. 2s. 1899.

THIS little book is intended to assist the newly arrived military medical officer in his sanitary inspections in India, and also to interest and instruct non-medical military readers in the sanitary precautions requisite for the preservation of the health of British troops in India.