to be anticipated in the science and art of therapeutics. A special feature of interest in the lectures is the frequency with which the most advanced chemical and physiological observations and experiments are shown to lead to practical developments bearing on the treatment and prevention of disease. The lectures are written in Dr. Brunton's usual lucid style, and display his well known fertility and aptness of illustration. The book is a necessity for all interested in the progress of therapeutics.

The Hygiene of the Ear. By DR. VINCENZO COZZOLINO. Translated from the Fifth Italian Edition by JAMES ERSKINE, M.A., M.B. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox.

THE author, in this essay of four short chapters, touches on a great variety of conditions which may affect the ear, interfere with its function as an organ of hearing, or which may lead on to serious structural changes. The dangers associated with various popular forms of treatment—dropping oil into the ear, the indiscriminate introduction of cotton-wool, the use of ear-picks, ear-cleaners, and the like—are dwelt upon and explained; and the effects of certain drugs, especially quinine, and the salicylates, are discussed. In the list of contents, by "stupidity in school children mistaken for dulness in hearing," the reverse is meant. What the author desires to draw attention to is the fact that a child suffering from dulness in hearing is too often looked upon as stupid, lazy, or inattentive, and punished, in place of having his hearing-apparatus examined and the defect removed.

The pamphlet contains nothing new, and adds nothing to our knowledge of otology. But its teaching is that of educated commonsense, and the facts are explained by one with a full knowledge of his subject, and so its perusal can be recommended. The information is conveyed in a very readable form, and the translation is excellent.

On Sledge and Horseback to Outcast Siberian Lepers. By KATE MARSDEN. London: The Record Press, Limited.

FROM 1827 to 1860, the officials of the districts of Siberia where leprosy prevails, constantly petitioned the Government to erect an hospital for the benefit of the sufferers. In 1860 their request at last received attention, and a small hospital was built. It was closed three years afterwards from lack of funds. Since that time no public effort has been made to

relieve the lepers, for whom no special hospital exists. It was reserved for an Englishwoman to awaken Russian sympathy in their behalf. That, in spite of Miss Marsden's attempted extenuation, is perhaps the most remarkable fact in a very remarkable book. It is with no desire to depreciate her heroism and her enthusiasm in the cause to which she has devoted herself that we say, as Miss Marsden herself admits, that she is evidently a very nervous woman—one to whom the circumstances of her arduous journey and the destitute condition of the lepers would especially appeal.

The circuit of Viluisk, a department of the province of Yakutsk, extends over about 559,000 square miles, and is divided into four departments, in one of which, the Sredni Viluisk, the headquarters of Siberian leprosy are to be found. In the Viluisk circuit, with a population of 70,000, there is but one doctor. It follows that the diagnosis of leprosy is frequently made without a medical opinion, and the attainted person is driven to live in the forests apart from man. Miss Marsden cites one case where this state of things resulted in crime. The details which she gives of the wretched existence of the lepers, driven from the community, and living like beasts in the forests and marshes, scantily clad, and suffering the utmost extremities of heat and cold, are sufficient to arouse compassion and indignation in the minds of European readers. But it must in justice be added that the report of the medical inspector of the district states that in one or two villages these unfortunate beings are better cared for. From this report, and from Miss Marsden's figures, it would seem that the total number of lepers at present in the district may amount to about 120, including those who are not officially notified. For their relief she proposes to establish a colony, consisting of ten houses, each to accommodate ten inmates; two hospitals (one for either sex), doctors' and nurses' accommodation, &c. For the buildings alone it is stated that a sum of £9,000 is required, besides additional funds for their maintenance and the treatment of the patients. To relieve the altogether exceptional suffering which the lepers undergo amid the half-civilised and superstitious population of Yakutsk, and to minimise the risk of propagation of the disease, this sum would not appear to be excessive. One is surprised, indeed, that it should be necessary to look beyond Russia for contributions to the fund. The object is worthy to evoke the charity of citizens of any nationality, but it would be unfortunate should their sympathy induce them to forget the still stronger claims exerted upon them by disease and poverty in their own country.