Reviews.

Small-pox and Vaccination in British India.

—By Major S. P. JAMES, I.M.S., M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H. Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta. 1909.

IN a well-written and exceedingly interesting essay of just one hundred pages Major James traces the history of small-pox and vaccination in British India from early times down to the present day. In European countries, where vaccination has been extensively carried out, an appeal to the figures of small-pox mortality has given in favour of the practice an answer as unequivocal as it is satisfactory. It is, therefore, of great interest to ascertain whether a similar answer will be returned from an enquiry on the effect of vaccination in a country like India, where the difficulties attending the introduction and progress of vaccination have been enormously greater than in Europe. It is with a view to answer this question that the Statistical Officer to the Government of India publishes the results of his important researches. In doing so the author has produced an exceedingly able and valuable contribution to the literature of small-pox vaccination, and his findings will do yeoman service in the support of the progress founded on Jenner's wonderful discovery. This essay is most opportune and will do much to assist in the more thorough appreciation of the importance of the subject to the Empire. Major James is to be congratulated on the able way he has dealt with the subject and on the statistical proof he has brought forward in support of his argument. The volume is profusely illustrated with diagrams and charts. It is beautifully got up; the publishers having done their share of the work in a manner worthy of high commendation. We consider that every medical man should read this essay, and we are confident by doing so that he will be in a better position to combat the views continually being put forward by opponents of the efficacy of vaccination in small-pox.

Constipation and Intestinal Obstruction.—

By SAMUEL GOODWIN GANT, M.D., LL. D. Published by W. B. Saunders Company. Pp. 559. Illustrations, 250.

THIS volume forms a very complete and interesting treatise on its subject. After passing in review the anatomy and physiology of the bowel, and particularly of the rectum, the ætiology of constipation is fully considered; and then, with equal fullness, its symptoms and diagnosis. Considerably more than half the book is devoted to treatment, described under the heads of educational; psychic; treatment by exercise and bodily movements; by hydrotherapy, internal and external; by massage and

by mechanical vibration; by electricity and by drugs, the author preferring to rely, as little as possible, on the last. Then follow chapters on the treatment of the complications of constipation, of plastic constipation, of the constipation of infants and children, and finally, a large amount of space is devoted to the surgical treatment of mechanical constipation. To only one of these subjects will any detailed reference be made, namely, to the treatment of splachnoptosis. The writer makes an unquestionably true statement when he says "with the possible exception of cancer, I know of no other affection which causes more misery and which is more difficult permanently to relieve than general enteroposis or Glenard's disease." The methods of treatment advised are mechanical supports (in the practical details of applying which we think more help might have been given); rest with the foot of the bed well raised; the increase of nutrition, on which the writer lays some stress—being convinced that the deposit of fat in the mesentary shortens that structure; the regulation of the bowels and other excretory organs; strengthening of the abdominal muscles; and lastly, surgical treatment. There are a variety of operations advised to meet varying conditions. Colopexy, it is interesting to note, is performed through a ventral median incision, the suspensory stitches being introduced, if desired, at a considerable distance from the incision by means of a long-handled needle.

The book, excellent in itself, follows the best American type in being beautifully illustrated, and printed on heavy polished paper, and although this is somewhat of a disadvantage to the Civil Surgeon in this country, it may well be forgiven when the result is such as is the case in this book.

A Geography of India, Physical, Political and Commercial.—

By GEORGE PATTERSON, late Professor of History and Politics, Madras Christian College. Price Re. 1. Publishers, The Christian Literature Society for India, London 1909.

WE have read this little book consisting of 320 pages with very great pleasure and a considerable amount of profit. The author has given a very wide interpretation to the term Geography and has treated many subjects which are of interest to the medical profession in India. The book is written for students of arts and we have no doubt it will be well received and meet with the approval of the lay authorities. It appeals to the medical profession by the absorbing interest inherent in a well-written book of this nature, dealing with the topography, commercial, political and statistical information regarding the land we live in. We congratulate the author on the success that has attended his efforts in producing a most readable and interesting little book.