Rational and Effective Treatment of Hip Disease.—By P. BRUCE BENNIE, M.A., M.D., B.S., Melbourne, Honorary Medical Officer, Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children. Compiled by ALEXANDER B. BENNIE, M.A., M.B., B.S., Melbourne. Publishers: Messrs. BAILLIÈRE, TINDALL & COX.

THE effective treatment of Hip Disease by Bennie may well be called the apotheosis of Thomas' splint, for has not the author discovered that it is well to fit it by the formula

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\cos d \sin \beta}{r(1 - \cos^2 + \cos^2)}$$

and another longer proposition which, however, is said to be more convenient for calculation. This fact provides a crumb of comfort for those whose education has been mainly classical.

The author talks much sound sense about the use of Thomas' splint. He is an ardent advocate for the claims of conservative surgery against those of operative interference, and in this he will have the sympathy of many. The author modestly claims only to have followed Thomas' teaching, and to have extended his teaching. We may, however, relieve him of the responsibility of having introduced lead strips with which to record the curves of the back and trip, which we understand him to claim. This method has been in use for over 20 years. Pewter gas piping is better for the purpose than strips of lead, as it is not so liable to distortion by its own weight. Thomas' splint is so often mis-made, mis-applied and mis-used, that this little book will no doubt be of great use to those who have to deal with many cases of hip disease; the author should have his due meed of praise for his efforts to deal with the curvatures in a methodical and scientific manner.

A Handbook of Skin Diseases and their Treatment.—By ARTHUR WHITFIELD, M.D. (LOND.), F.R.C.P. Published by EDWARD ARNOLD, pp. 320, Illustrations 50.

THE author has intended to write a concise book suited to the needs of the student and general practitioner, and is to be congratulated on having entirely fulfilled his self-appointed task. A special feature is made of the treatment of skin diseases and this part of the subject is throughout kept in the foreground. In particular the results of a systematic application of Sir A. E. Wright's methods are, the author claims for the first time, given a place in a book on skin diseases. The uses of X-rays in treatment are duly noted in the proper places, and rapid methods of examining pus, scales, etc., methods which the author has found very valuable, are given a prominent place in the pages. The book is a very good one, and can be thoroughly recommended as just the thing for the general practitioner. The illustrations are unusually successful and give a particularly good idea of the lesions they portray, and the printing and binding are excellent.

What to do in Cases of Poisoning.—Tenth Edition. By WILLIAM MURRELL, M.D., F.R.C.P., pp. 288, royal 32mo, price 3/6; published by H. K. LEWIS, London.

It is not necessary to give a detailed review of a book which has reached its tenth edition. The fact speaks for itself. But apart from its excellence the book is brightened by a humour which, beginning in the preface, dedicated to the coroners of England with many apologies for the loss which they must have sustained from its publication, shines out at unexpected intervals and makes the reading a pleasure. The present edition has been somewhat reduced in size by a better arrangement of the type, but contains a great deal of new matter. To those who have not the book we say emphatically, "Get it, you won't regret it."

SANITARY REPORTS.

I.

BENGAL.

LIEUT.-COL. F. C. CLARKSON, I.M.S., the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, submits his report on the year 1906 in Bengal. Lieut.-Col. Clarkson was on leave during the most of the year and only took over charge from Capt. Clemesha, I.M.S., on 15th November. The population of Bengal is now over 50 millions. The birth-rate was reduced owing to high prices in 1905. The following gives an account of the new scheme recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner, India, Lieut.-Col. Leslie, I.M.S., as an attempt to CHECK THE VITAL STATISTICS. This has been tried experimentally in the *thana* of Galsi in Burdwan District, the work being done by an Asst.-Surgn. and two Civil Hospital Assistants. Lieut.-Col. Clarkson says:—

"Before the commencement of the actual operations, the staff made a rough census of the population in the area and compared their results in respect of the numbers, ages and sexes of the inhabitants with the figures obtained at the last census. Then they began to collect information about all births and deaths, and verify it with the respective entries in the *thana* register. In this way all these occurrences in this area during the period from 1st August to 31st December, viz., 618 births and 919 deaths, were duly enquired into, the corresponding figures in the *thana* register being 625 and 924. This difference is due to the fact that in the *thana* register of deaths, 1 case of still-birth, 4 cases of abortion and 1 case of death which occurred in May, were included, while 1 case of death was not registered at all; and in the case of births, 2 cases of abortion and 5 cases of still-births were wrongly entered, besides 2 cases of birth were doubly entered and 2 births omitted altogether. Then, out of 919 cases of deaths which actually took place, there appear to be no less than 508 cases (or 55.3 per cent.) in which the causes of death entered in the register were found to be wrong. The following statement will show details of the discrepancies which were very large (more than half) in the case of "fever" and "all other causes."

Error to the extent of more than half (55 per cent.) is sufficiently startling. We hope this interesting experiment will be continued.

The year 1906 was a bad CHOLERA year in Bengal, the ratio *per mille* being 3.81 as compared with 2.33; no district entirely escaped and many suffered severely. There was also an enormous rise in the SMALL-POX death-rates, for which no satisfactory explanation is to be found. Plague, on the other hand, fell to half. Inoculation may be said to have been practically confined to the population of the Gaya Jail; in no other place was it resorted to in any degree of frequency. An attempt has been made to deal with MALARIA and we quote Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson's account of these operations:—

At the first three places, viz., Ranaghat, Berhampore and Jagadishpur, the operations chiefly consisted in filling in hollows and depressions, clearing jungles and spreading kerosine oil on the water surface of all foul tanks and cesspools; and at the fourth place, viz., at Maheshpur, quinine was distributed to the people free of charge, to be used by them as