scientific notion of cure consists, as Dr. Harvey would no doubt admit, in removing or modifying prejudicial influences, anticipating injurious events, restoring an uneven balance, supplying a deficient power, or introducing a foreign element for a beneficial purpose; and beyond all these objects lies the prime ministry of medicine—the prevention of disease, the preservation of health, the prolongation of life, and the postponement of death. All these purposes, however, evidently imply, as a starting point and foundation, a full knowledge of physiology, pathology and natural therapeutics, and the profession owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Harvey in bringing into prominence the views of Alison, Forbes and Gubler, to whom he dedicates his work, and laying it down so emphatically and fully that the "first lines of therapeutics" should be traced in a study of what disease is and how it ends, without the interference or interposition of art, before the lines, somewhat broken and scattered as they still unfortunately are which traverse the science of therapeutics proper, are sought for and traced.

We heartily commend the work as an interesting and thoughtful exposition of a most important theme which Dr. Harvey handles with honesty, courage and skill.

Observations on Leprosy; involving certain hypothetical views on its intimate pathology and on which has been grounded the successful treatment of the disease by means of Carbolic Acid in union with the vapour of water at 212°; and further suggesting the use of like means in the treatment of zymotic disease generally in Man and Beast. By Surgeon-General WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M. D., *H. M.'s Indian Medical Service. London:* H. K. Lewis.

The "hypothetical views" are that leprosy is due to a *contagium vivum*" which is capable of being destroyed by boiling a solution of carbolic acid in water and applying the vapour thus generated to the skin and pulmonary mucous membrane. The strength recommended is ℥iij. or ℥iv. of Calvert's No. 5 to ℥x. or ℥xii. of water.

The existence of a "*contagium vivum*" or leprosy-germ capable of hereditary transmission and conveyance by infection has not been as yet demonstrated; still the treatment recommended might be found beneficial as a matter of experience apart from theory. Dr. Johnston cites evidence in favour of it, and as it is very easily applied, and can do no harm, it should be tried. Whether Carbolic and Cresylic acids are the best agents for destroying the *materies morbi* on which the propagation of zymotic diseases is believed to depend, is open to question. The existence of *contagia* rests as yet on feeble evidence. When they are isolated they can be subjected to various influences, and the most destructive and convenient can then be selected. Meantime, there can be no doubt that Carbolic and Cresylic acids are good disinfectants, and possess great power of inhibiting putrifaction. The fumes of chlorine and sulphurous acid are preferred by some as volatile disinfectants, but for inhalation and application to the skin Dr. Johnston's selection and method are probably preferable.

The Story of our Services under the Crown: a Historical Sketch of the Army Medical Staff. By Surgeon-Major ALBERT A. GORE, A.M.D. : *London*: Ballier, Tindall & Co.

This book is a reprint of papers originally contributed to "Colburn's United Service Magazine." Its scope is ambitious. It aims to present a history of the aid which medical art and medical men have rendered in war from the earliest times,—among the Greeks and Romans, Crusaders and Normans, and in the English Army since their time. The history is brought down to the year 1860, when the first competitive examination for entrance into the Army Medical School took place, under the provisions of the Royal Warrant of 1858 There is an appendix giving a precis of the Report of the Committee on the Army Medical Service in 1878. The absence of the later history of the Department is to be regretted, but there are obvious difficulties in preparing an impartial narrative of it by an officer still in the service. The book indicates a wide range of reading and research, and contains a large mass of interesting information relating to the status and services of army medical officers. We would recommend it as admirably adapted to engage an occasional leisure hour pleasantly, though we should have liked to see the sanitary and medical aspects of the past more prominently discussed.

Pendulum Leverage of the Obstetric Forceps. By ALBERT H. SMITH, M. D. *Philadelphia.*

This pamphlet, which is a reprint from Vol. III. of the Gynecological Transactions, for 1879, is a vigorous protest against the pendulum or side to side movement of the forceps in extraction. The author is at issue with the great majority of obstetric authorities.—Barnes, Simpson, Leishman, Ramsbotham, Naegele, Galabin and many others, who believe and teach that side to side movements facilitate extraction and do no harm. He follows Matthews Duncan, who strongly discountenances this manœuvre, and is able to number Carl Braun, Gustav Braun, Sitzman, Warrington, Wilson and Allen among those who believe in traction, and traction only.

Dr Smith's conclusions are as follows:—1, that pendulum movements are in direct violation of the teachings of nature; 2, that they are absolutely useless so far as any aid to traction is concerned; 3. that any virtue they have is in stimulating uterine contraction, which then acts independently of them; 4, that so far from diminishing friction they increase the mutual pressure of the head and pelvic walls thus increasing friction; 5. that they tend to do injury to the pelvic tissues no matter at what point of the pelvis they are practised; 6. that so far from being specially useful when the head is tightly "gripped" to use Dr. Galabin's expression and the extraction difficult, the greater the difficulty of the case the greater, necessarily, is the injury to the tissues. These conclusions and the arguments by which they are supported are well worthy of the attention of the profession. Dr. Smith very properly lays great stress on traction being made in the line of the pelvic axes. He also believes in a moderate amount of compression being exercised by the blades of the forceps—a sufficient amount to "take the pressure off the pelvic walls and overcome resistance," *and no more.*

Correspondence.

ENTERIC FEVER AMONG NATIVES.

To the Editor of the "Indian Medical Gazette."

SIR,—As facts bearing on the prevalence of Enteric Fever among the native population are of great interest, I beg to send you the enclosed extract from the monthly return of sick in the Tezpur Jail for May. I would add that as the prisoners bathe in a tank which receives much of the drainage of the town, there is no difficulty in accounting for the occurrence of the case. Natives, it is well known, never bathe without rinsing their mouths