

## Review.

*Papers on Dermatology.* By E. D. Mapother, M.D., Ex-President, Royal College of Surgeons, late Consulting Surgeon, Surgeon to St. Vincent and St. Joseph's Children's Hospitals, Dublin. I. and A. Churchill: London.

THESE papers by Dr. Mapother, who, we notice, has left Dublin and settled in practice in London, are valuable, instructive, and suggestive. The collection contains portions of lectures on skin diseases delivered at St. Vincent's Hospital and some thoughtful papers on dermatology, which have been read on different occasions at various Medical Societies.

One of the most interesting papers is that devoted to the Irish Sulphur Spas, contrasting them with those of America and the Continent which Dr. Mapother has visited. Dr. Mapother draws attention to the fact that within 20 hours' journey of London, there are two spas in Ireland, Lisdoonvarna and Lucan, which are little known to the profession, but whose medicinal properties are as valuable in skin and other affections as the famous spas of Bireges, Aix-la-Chapelle and Aix-les-Bains, on the continent. Lisdoonvarna is about 160 miles from Dublin, situated nearly six hundred feet above the sea-level and only 3 miles from the sea-coast. The climate is moist and mild; the air blowing from the Atlantic over three miles of intervening mountains is genial and bracing, very free from organic matter and abounding in ozone. The soil is of limestone, and the sanitation good. The most important spring is the Gowlaun. The Gowlaun water contains 5.553 cubic centimetres of sulphuretted hydrogen in the litre; it also contains traces of lithia, and has only a small amount of sulphate of lime, being superior in the latter respect to some of the continental spas, which containing a large amount of sulphate of lime are apt to produce dyspeptic troubles.

The waters have proved efficacious in scaly skin diseases, especially psoriasis; in ague and in eczema due to a gouty diathesis. Dr. Mapother has found the water very valuable in chronic rheumatism, rheumatic and atonic gout, serofulous swellings, chronic congestion of the liver, and in enlargements of the spleen due to fevers. The therapeutic action of the waters appears to be diuretic and diaphoretic while they stimulate the absorption of inflammatory deposits. In selected cases Dr. Mapother has found an aperient added to the morning draught very beneficial in cases of chronic and obstinate constipation, and in a variety of dyspeptic and bilious disorders. A word of caution is given as to the injurious effects which have been known to follow an incautious use of these waters when unprescribed by the phy-

sician. The season is June, July, August, and September. The place is cheap. There are good hotels. Altogether Lisdoonvarna has many advantages which recommend it as a quiet health-resort to people who cannot afford the luxuries of the more fashionable spas, or who do not care for continental life.

## Service Notes.

DR. DAVID BOYES SMITH.

THE numerous friends, European and Native, of Dr. David Boyes Smith, Professor of Military Medicine at Netley, will, we feel sure, be grieved to hear that he is suffering from a sudden attack of hemiplegia, and his condition is considered most precarious. It appears that while lecturing in the Medical School at Netley on the 4th April, he experienced some difficulty in moving his right hand and arm, and an impediment in his speech. The following day he had two distinct epileptiform seizures, and since then he has been confined to bed, and affected with almost complete loss of power in the right upper and lower extremities and aphasia.

The gravity of his condition is enhanced by the almost daily continuance of epileptiform attacks with intervals of only partial consciousness. He has been closely attended by his friends, Dr. W. C. Maclean and Sir William Aitken; and Professor Ferrier of London has visited him in consultation. Our latest information is that a tumour with probably some hæmorrhagic effusion has been diagnosed as involving the left parietal region of the cerebrum; and the question of operative interference has been discussed and discarded as holding out no probability of relief. The condition therefore of this eminent Indian Physician may be regarded as hopeless, and a fatal termination cannot be long delayed.

We feel sure this sad intelligence will be received with sincere sorrow by all acquainted with the gifted sufferer. We may add that Dr. Cayley has been temporarily deputed to carry on Dr. Smith's duties in the Army Medical School.

### EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION TO BRIGADE SURGEON MEDICAL STAFF.

OFFICERS of the Medical Staff who are graduates of the Royal University of Ireland, will be glad to hear that the M. Ch. of that university obtained by examination, will exempt them from examination for promotion in the same way as the Fellowship of a Royal College.

### DEATH OF DR. D. B. SMITH.

Since the above was written the sad news has reached us by the last mail that Dr. D. B. Smith died on June 3rd. In the next number we shall give a record of his services.