

Reviews of Books.

A Manual of Animal Vaccination. By Dr. E. WARLOMONT.
Translated and edited by ARTHUR J. HARRIES, M.D.
London: J. & A. CHURCHILL. 1885.

Vaccination Vindicated, being an Answer to the Leading Anti-Vaccinators. By JOHN C. McVAIL, M. D.,
D.P.H. Cambridge. London: CASSELL & COMPANY,
Limited. 1887.

A Pamphlet on Vaccination. By WM. WOODWARD, M.D.
London: SIMPKIN & MARSHALL. 1888.

WE owe an apology to the author and translator of the first named of these works for our tardy recognition of a book which, in the present disturbed state of the public mind, should be in the hands of every medical practitioner, whether he is likely to be called upon to perform the operation of vaccination or not.

Nearly the first half of the work is taken up with "General Observations on Vaccination," in which its history and the questions relating to humanised lymph are conveniently summarised. But it is the second part—"concerning Animal Vaccination"—which gives the book its special interest. The needless fears about the transmission of syphilis are of course banished by this method; and, on the question of inoculating tubercle by the vaccination-process, Dr. Warlomont insists upon the impossibility of doing "so by means of *superficial* insertion of its bacilli." The author sums up the matter thus "Vaccination is free from danger when it is practised with necessary precautions, skill and care. It is not more harmful than piercing the ears to place rings in them."

We regret to say that the book is without an index, thus, inviting unfavourable comparison with Dr. Seaton's classic work on Vaccination.

Dr. McVail's book is of a kind different from the preceding, but of eminent value. It is a monument of industry, consisting of statistics of the most useful description, in reference to the power of vaccination in mitigating smallpox. It is a work indispensable to anyone engaged in the vaccination controversy, and is furnished with an admirable index, much

facilitating the use of the copious figures by which the arguments of the book are substantiated. In a certain sense, it is unfortunate that in proportion to its good results the importance of vaccination fails to be recognised, as the more remote we get from smallpox epidemics the less we are able to realise our indebtedness to the prevailing efficacy of this operation. Dr. McVail has done the community a service, in preserving, and presenting in a convenient and accessible form, the overwhelming evidence of the benefits of vaccination.

Dr. Woodward's pamphlet consists of a paper read by him before the Worcester Young Men's Christian Association. It is very useful in its way, and is to be commended as an active Public Vaccinator's earnest defence of the value of vaccination.

Vaccination has got into undeserved discredit by the way in which its details have been carried out by thoughtless or careless operators. It is much to be desired that all vaccinations should be taken out of the hands of private practitioners, and allowed to be performed only by public vaccinators. The difficulties in the way of this much-needed reform could be easily overcome. Vaccination, as an important branch of preventive medicine, should be under Government inspection. Not only is there great difficulty, privately, in obtaining trustworthy lymph, often necessitating a resort to unauthorised sources, but, in deference to the sentimental objections of ill-informed parents there are many practitioners of good social standing who are not ashamed, by vaccinating by one or two small insertions, to earn a cheap popularity, although thereby a serious danger is added to the life of a child thus made unfit to successfully resist a possible attack of smallpox. There are also doctors of a lower grade who set themselves up in unwholesome opposition to the Public Vaccinator, and, by performing the operation for a degrading fee of sixpence or a shilling, with a vaccination also much reduced in quantity—and therefore in quality—draw off a considerable number of ignorant mothers from the Vaccination Station, the efficiency of which becomes impaired through a greatly diminished attendance seriously limiting the selection of lymph, and the proper management of which becomes well-nigh impossible.

In the light of Marson's figures (Seaton's *Handbook of Vaccination*, ed. 1868, p. 216; McVail, p. 36; Woodward, p. 15) confirmed by all after-experience, conduct such as this,

in various walks of professional life, seems little short of criminal, and has now reached such appalling magnitude as to urgently call for Government interference.

If vaccination is to be a reality, and not merely something which leads its subjects into a fools' paradise, the State must ensure, by an inspection through properly-qualified officials, that it is carried out in all ranks of society in a thoroughly efficient manner.

Manual of Hypodermic Medication. By DRs. BOURNEVILLE AND BRICON. Translated from the Second Edition, with Additions by ANDREW S. CURRIE, M.D. London: H. K. LEWIS. 1887.

Dr. Currie has done good service in giving us a translation of this book, as it is most desirable that English readers should be made familiar with foreign works, that have been well received in their own country.

There is first a most meagre history of the hypodermic method and a short account of the various syringes, &c., that have been used in the procedure. The main part of the book consists of a list of drugs, in alphabetical order, giving the various preparations and doses that have been used, and the conditions in which they have been found serviceable. Some useful tables (including the growingly popular, but almost pernicious, "Index of Diseases") and a good index are appended.

The book is not a mere translation of the work of Drs. Bourneville and Bricon, as Dr. Currie frequently interposes comments of his own, based upon personal experience or culled from his research. Both authors and translator seem to have ransacked literature to find and chronicle every hypodermic "fad" of enthusiastic therapeutists. Much of this might have been omitted with advantage to the reader, and in the interests of the book itself. The excellent practice of subcutaneous medication is likely to suffer when we are gravely told by the authors of the use of "sulphate of magnesia ($1\frac{1}{2}$ grain in 16 minims of distilled water) by the hypodermic method, and the purgative effect was produced," or when the translator leads us to infer that, in a case of cancer of the uterus, the hypodermic use of a sedative gave relief for ten or fourteen days at a time.

The book, however, is one that all those should have who wish to know of what this important branch of therapeutics is capable.