

deeply anæsthetised, and that a third be very slightly under the anæsthetic. A very important development in the modern knowledge of the subject is the recognition of the advantage of profound anæsthesia over light anæsthesia in most instances. * * * Experience has taught us that, within certain limits, the state by the patient's heart may be entirely disregarded. * * * The truth of the matter is that patients with strong hearts are more liable to pass suddenly into a dangerous condition than those with feebler circulation. The advisability of commencing with ether or with A. C. E. mixture and continuing with chloroform is evidenced as something new; but we remember the late Professor Rutherford of Edinburgh insisting on this about twenty years ago. In the editorial remarks, special stress is laid upon the frequency with which surgeons pick out the less competent person to give the anæsthetic and the more competent to assist at the operation. "To ask a person to give an anæsthetic should be considered an evidence of confidence, not of disdain."

In reference to the leading article, published recently in the *Indian Medical Gazette* on the radical cure of hernia, it is interesting to note that the book under review gives a very full account of the most modern developments in this direction. Two important papers, by De Garmo and Coley, are specially worthy of notice. The former writer lays great stress on the importance of ascertaining, before operation on the male, whether a urethral discharge exists, and if so, of curing this before attempting to operate. Personally, we must confess to belonging to the rank of the sceptics regarding the value of radical cure; but after reading the papers quoted in this volume we are more than half converted to the opposite view. Says the Editor: "Coley's study and DeGarmo's paper constitute an absolute answer to those who do not believe in the radical operation. Such a low mortality speaks for itself." Coley operated on 360 cases with 1 death, due to double pneumonia from ether. He gives a table shewing 300 Bassini operations with 1 death and 3 relapses, 280 of these cases having been carefully traced. Primary union took place in 97% of cases. These results are a great improvement on those obtained even by the best surgeons and under most favourable conditions prior to the present decade.

Under Gynecology we are glad to note that, with reference to a paper by Matwieff on *Bathing during Menstruation*, the Editors write: "The fear of bathing during menstruation is one of the teachings handed down to us for generations, and is purely fictitious. It is, however, so firmly educated into womankind that it will take a generation or two to remove it. There is no reason why any healthy woman should not bathe during menstruation, with proper precautions against subsequent cold. There is no reason why a woman should allow

her person to go unclean at the time of all others it needs cleansing."

Under Nervous and Mental Diseases, an important paper by Alexander Lambert on cases of *Insolation* in New York is referred to. A preliminary report on the changes observed in the nervous system in three fatal cases is included. "Sections were examined from the special cord, cerebellum and various portions of the cerebrum, and all showed more or less pronounced changes in the chromophile plaques of the ganglion-cells. These were sometimes changed in shape and reduced in number; at other times they were broken into fine dust, and in others had entirely disappeared. The nucleus is stained more deeply than normal with methylene-blue, and abnormal spheric granules appear. It is supposed by Van Gieson (who made the examinations) that these conditions show an acute auto-intoxication, and that this may be considered the basis of insolation." The paper is of special interest in the light of Dr. Sambon's attempt to include insolation amongst the so-called microbic diseases.

A paper dealing with a case of *auto-extirpation of the Larynx* by Szigeti, is noted in the division of Legal Medicine. This case of suicide was so remarkable that its possibility could hardly have been entertained had not the circumstances excluded homicide. The suicide was a woman, aged 42, and an illustration is appended showing the injuries inflicted. "A table-knife was used, the first cut being made downward with the head thrown back, the larynx being thus probably grasped by the hand and excised by a series of sawing cuts. Death followed in eight hours. The carotids, jugulars and vagi were intact. One similar case is on record (by Jameson), in which the victim removed half of one side of his larynx and brought it himself to the hospital, where he sought relief."

The book includes sections on Anatomy, Physiology and Physiologic Chemistry, in addition to all the ordinary subjects, and its general style and get-up is beyond criticism. There is an excellent index at the end. It only remains to say that we have rarely seen a book which appears to us to be so nearly indispensable to the library of every medical institution and of every medical man who wishes to keep himself *au fait* with any or every branch of his profession.

The Sanitation of British Troops in India.—

By E. CARRICK FREEMAN, Captain, R.A.M.C. London: REBMAN PUBLISHING Co. Pp. 106. 2s. 1899.

THIS little book is intended to assist the newly arrived military medical officer in his sanitary inspections in India, and also to interest and instruct non-medical military readers in the sanitary precautions requisite for the preservation of the health of British troops in India.

This latter object is all the more necessary as "the military medical officer has advisory functions only, actual sanitation being in the hands of the Royal Engineers and the Quartermaster-General's Department. He has no statutory powers behind him like the Medical Officer of Health, and it is only by securing the willing co-operation of those in authority, and by educating public opinion that he can hope to see his sanitary ideas carried out.....The military mind has, too, a strong and intensely conservative bias, and the fact that any system or arrangement has been in use for a long time is considered a strong argument for its retention, however unfortunate may have been its results."

Captain Freeman's book admirably fulfils this double object. It is written in a simple forcible style, and although primarily intended for military readers, it gives much sound information on practical points which civilian householders all over India too frequently neglect to their cost. For instance, his remarks on the dangers of infection through that walking hot-bed of germs—the sweeper, and the bhisti's *masuk*—and on the hygiene of the cook-house, direct attention to some of the commonest and most widespread insanitary practices which undoubtedly cause a large proportion of the preventible disease and deaths in India.

As regards the cook-house, "a crowd of native servants and hangers-on practically live on the premises under no supervision whatever, and there is no check on sweeper or bhisti. The cook also by his partiality for producing creams, blanc-manges and jellies, provides, as Hawkin has shown, what are practically 'nutrient media' for any pathogenic germs which may happen to be present." It is very properly insisted on that the cook-house should be swept out by the cook or his assistant, with a specially clean broom and that the dish-cloths or 'jharans' should be specially preserved from the risk of infection. "For this purpose they should be issued to the cooks twice a week in sufficient numbers, and the dirty ones boiled in the kitchen and hung up to dry in the sun. This is a much safer procedure than handing them over to the dhobi." And into the dairy "no sweeper must on any account ever enter the room."

Indeed, as our author states, it may be safely asserted as a general principle that the fewer native servants employed in domestic arrangements the less likelihood there will be of an outbreak of infectious disease.

A Manual of Modern Surgery: General and Operative.—By J. C. DACOSTA, M.D. 2nd Edition, with 386 Illustrations. Philadelphia: W. B. SAUNDERS. Svo. Pp. 900. \$4. 1898.

THIS manual fairly well justifies its title. It is up to date and adapted to the wants of the busy general practitioner and the modern student of surgery. It stands between the

cumbrous surgical text-books and the incomplete 'outlines' or compendiums, and is eminently practical throughout.

The opening chapter is rightly devoted to bacteriology, because without some knowledge of the vital principles of this branch of science the vast importance of its truths will not be fully appreciated, and, as a consequence, there will inevitably be failure in the application of aseptic methods. This subject naturally leads on to the subjects of sepsis and the relative values and advantages of the various antiseptics, and the disinfecting of the operator's hands and instruments—subjects on which English text-books are woefully behind-hand.

The various operations and recent advances in surgery are described in clear and concise terms, and freely illustrated with diagrams and drawings though some of the latter are rather crude. There is also a chapter on the use of the Röntgen Rays in modern surgery.

As regards litholoxaxy the author refers to Lieutenant-Colonel Keegan's operations in male children, which were first published in our pages. While admitting the safety and desirability of this operation in such skilled hands as Dr. Keegan's, he nevertheless advises caution in the performance of this operation in children, especially as the results of lateral lithotomy in such cases are so favourable. The elder Gross in 72 of the latter cases had only 2 deaths or a percentage of 2.67, whilst Dr. Keegan's mortality in children was 43 per cent.

In connection with transfusion, we should like some of our readers who have the opportunity to give this simple operation a trial in that large class of otherwise hopeless cases of collapse from cholera, as this promising treatment has never yet been properly tried in cholera collapse, and it might thus be the means of saving hundreds of lives.

Handbook for Medical Subordinates.—By PANDIT GOPAL DASS, C.M.S., Delhi. 1898.

THIS booklet, written in the vernacular in the Persian character, gives a variety of information likely to be useful to civil hospital-assistants and compounders in jails and hospitals, as for instance, the treatment of patients preparatory to major operations, the materials for surgical operations, a large number of receipts for various conditions, hypodermic medications, antidotes to poisons, and the chief alterations and addition to the new pharmacopœia.

Traitement des Dermatoses par la petiet Chirurgie et les Agents Physiques.—Par M. L. BROCCQ, Médecin de l'Hopital Broca-Pascal. Paris: MM. GEORGES CARRE ET C. NAUD, Editeurs. 1898. Pp. 285. 20 illustrations.

THE scope of this little work is indicated by its title. It consists of a series of lectures given at the Broca-Pascal Hospital in Paris by