

noteworthy for the excellent coloured plates with which it is illustrated and the careful description of the various forms of the organism. It was presumably written before the publication of the recent paper by Duval and Wellman suggesting that the pleomorphism is due to there being two different organisms associated together in some cases of leprosy, as this point is not discussed.

Dysentery in the Hazaribagh Central Jail—January 1910—March 1911.—By CAPTAIN R. T. WELLS, I.M.S. (*Scientific Memoirs.*)

THIS further study of the subject of jail dysentery will be welcomed on account of the great importance of the subject. Its conclusions differ considerably from those arrived at by Major Forster at the Midnapore Jail, whose full report, it is much to be regretted, has never been published, although his paper at the Bombay Congress records his main results. He concluded that most of the dysentery at Midnapore was bacillary in nature, although he also met with the amœbic disease, but the exact proportion of each is not clearly stated. Captain Wells, on the other hand, although working in a drier and cooler climate where a still larger proportion of bacillary cases might have been expected, only succeeded in isolating dysentery bacilli from 4.9 per cent. of the 268 cases he examined, while he found motile amœbæ, which differed from the saphrophytic forms he also describes, in no less than 19.5 per cent. or five times as many. In five cases tuberculosis was found on *post mortem*, one of them also showing amœbæ, but in the very great majority of the cases, namely, about 70 per cent., he was not able to find the cause, which shows how much there is still to be learnt about this class of disease even after allowing for the frequent difficulty in isolating the causative organism from undoubted cases of chronic bacillary dysentery, which probably accounts for some of his negative results, which are very much higher than those obtained by other members of the Bacteriological Department.

Another important part of this report is the cultivation of non-pathogenic organism from the air, and their occasional presence in the stools, and he agrees with Walker that the true pathogenic entamœba cannot be cultivated on artificial media, and is distinct morphologically from the aerial and water non-pathogenic forms, some of which he figures in the plates in the report. The work is a careful and painstaking investigation, but it is very clear that the subject is much in want of further elucidation.

The Development of the Parasite of Indian Kala-Azar.—By CAPTAIN W. S. PATTON, I.M.S. (*Scientific Memoirs.*)

THE writer, having again been placed on special duty to investigate this important subject, has continued his experiments on the

feeding bugs on patients showing the parasite in this peripheral blood, and has discovered the cause of the very limited and infrequent success in his former lengthy work at this point to be, that if one of these insects are fed a second time on blood, any development which has already taken place in its intestinal tract is at once put a stop to by the action of the fresh supply of blood. On avoiding this source of fallacy he has obtained much more complete and numerous developmental forms in the bugs, and now describes what he considers to be the post-flagellate stage of the organism, in which it loses its flagellum and once more reverts to the small oval form, but with much less blue staining of its protoplasm than in the early stages of the pre-flagellate growth. This post-flagellate form is probably the source of infection in man, and he thinks that this is brought about by regurgitation of the organism from the intestine when the bug bites a fresh subject. The importance of this further stage in the life-history of the organism is that it opens up the possibility of research on the transmission of the infection, now that French workers in Algiers have shown that the infantile form of kala-azar can be transmitted to several species of animals. This memoir is illustrated by an excellent plate showing numerous forms of the development of the organism.

Sight Testing for the General Practitioner.—By F. DAVIDSON, 1912. Price 2s. 6d.

THIS little volume on sight testing has now reached its fifth edition and would therefore appear popular with the practitioner. The author lays great stress on the importance of the general practitioner including, in his daily work, that of refraction and the prescription of glasses to his patients direct. The author undertakes in his book to teach a simple sound method of both subjective and objective testing. This claim he has undoubtedly substantiated, and the practitioner who has thoroughly mastered what he advises should have no difficulty in carrying out the necessary tests and in advising patients with regard to any correction of vision necessary.

The Nurse's Complete Medical Dictionary.—By M. I. BRYAN. Messrs. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1912.

THIS little book, which has been compiled with the purpose of giving the nursing profession of to-day a complete vocabulary of the terms a nurse is likely to meet in her daily work, will be found exceedingly useful and should supply a distinct want. The pronunciation is given, together with sufficient explanation to make the terms intelligible to all. Under the different diseases the chief symptoms have been noted, but no treatment has been described. We have no doubt this useful book will find a ready sale as it is just what is wanted by young nurses when they begin their training.