

the fingers, exostoses, caries and white swelling of the metacarpal and phalangeal articulations.

“7. Cure is the most frequent termination of *spina ventosa*. Sometimes, however, the affected bone becomes necrosed, and then the morbid changes extend to neighbouring parts.

“8. In every case medical treatment ought to be tried, and continued for a long time. Removal of the fingers ought only to be proposed as a last resource, and after a conservative attempt has been made by sub-periosteal resection of the diseased bone.”

---

*Infant Feeding and its Influence on Life, or the Causes and Prevention of Infant Mortality.* By C. H. F. ROUTH, M.D., M.R.C.P.L. 3d Edition. London: J. & A. Churchill: 1876.

AFTER the lapse of thirteen years a new edition of Dr Routh's interesting and valuable work is presented. The necessity for the views therein advanced being widely spread is evidenced by the statement, that since the second edition was published in 1863, 146,000 children in England have died of developmental diseases, and 12,000 from the want of breast milk, and that these numbers are still on the increase. In 1847, the proportional deaths to one million of persons living from these causes was respectively 653 and 46; but, according to the author, the death-rate is now greater, being 695 and 63.

The careful consideration of the various questions reviewed by Dr Routh requires no additional recommendation. To the student, and especially to the young practitioner, the information the volume contains is most useful. It is only through the profession diffusing the correct views of infant nourishment advocated, that those most interested can be reached. One difficulty, however, exists, and it is a great one, that the class amongst whose children the chief infantile mortality occurs from the causes considered in this volume are not readily benefited, as very frequently the infants are not submitted to medical supervision until too late. The figures quoted above, on Dr Routh's own statement, show this. They point to the necessity for our dispensaries and children's hospitals disseminating more extensively correct ideas as to infant feeding amongst the class of mothers seeking their aid. It would be well were all of these institutions to distribute printed directions in clear language, and shortly expressed, for the best means to feed infants when the mother is unable to nourish her own offspring. Dr Routh might with ease have appended a form to the present edition of his book, and so have made the result of his investigations more generally useful and practical. His appendix is rather suited for the guidance of medical advisers than for their patients.

Of the new edition it may be sufficient to state, that it is consider-

ably larger than the last by nearly eighty pages. This is due to an enlarged consideration of the substitutes for milk, and embraces a reference to most of those, and also to the addition of an index, which renders the information in the volume more readily available. Glancing over this, under the head of Galactagogues, we note that Dr Routh has made no addition to those enumerated in his last edition. The medical journals, however, have made note of others, to which reference ought to have been made to render the work complete in all departments, and especially in this, the list of reliable galactagogues being by no means extensive.

The revision of the text has not been very carefully performed, for in his allusion to the two kinds of the Bofareira the confusion of the red and the white is repeated. Before another edition is submitted for review the author may perhaps find time for more careful revisal. It is matter for regret that a standard work has any important omission or defect.

---

*Hints to Mothers for the Management of Health during the period of Pregnancy and in the Lying-in Room; with an Exposure of Popular Errors in connexion with those Subjects, and Hints upon Nursing.* By THOMAS BULL, M.D. New Edition, thoroughly Revised by ROBERT W. PARKER, M.R.C.S.Eng. London: Longmans, Green, & Co.: 1877.

*The Maternal Management of Children in Health and Disease.* By same Author, Editor, and Publishers.

THE new and revised editions of these works have been submitted to us, and although they are intended for popular rather than professional readers, we give them a passing notice. Dr Bull's two volumes are not only well known, but are highly appreciated by those for whom they were written.

His "Hints" are now in their 25th edition, whilst the other, on "The Maternal Management of Children," is in its 14th—sufficient testimony this to the estimation in which they are held as family guide-books.

Mr Parker has done the reviser's part with care and judiciousness, and has brought up the new editions to the present advanced state of medical science. They may be recommended by medical men to their female patients as trustworthy manuals for the management of their own and their children's health, in their absence. Seeing that both volumes find a large number of readers amongst the emigrant class, a fuller text upon some subjects might have been desirable. The intention of the author of the works evidently was not to supersede the medical attendant, but rather to aid him by affording sufficient information for the direction of the case until his arrival.