

same hideous scenes are enacted whether at Allahabad, Saharunpore, Calcutta or Bombay. It is not altogether the fault of the Railway officials. The people are anxious—mad to get home ; they storm the station at the last moment ; they carry bundles of monstrous shape and contents ; they jam in the narrow doorway ; they are forced in with all their kit and gear ; the carriages are locked. Then those that have to reach a distant home, are afraid to leave the train for a moment : they live on what they can snatch from hawkers on platforms ; they get water somehow, any how ; the purposes of nature will not be denied ; the crowd “stew in their own gravy.” It is often the same in a mitigated form with regiments ; the foot-boards and the window sills on the arrival at their destination show incontestably to what straits the soldiers (native troops are the chief sufferers) have been put.

During the present year and under the extreme pressure of the “Kumbh” Fair at Hurdwar, the pressure put on the passenger traffic in that neighbourhood has been extreme ; and the newspapers at the time were full of the most painful descriptions of the sufferings to which the unfortunate pilgrims were put : packed like beasts in open trucks, with no shade from the sun, nothing but snatches of water to relieve their thirst, debarred from food and rest and unrelieved of their natural excretions for hours. What is the use of discussing the profundities as to the diffusion of cholera when humanity is being revolted in this way ?

The Civil Surgeon of Umritsur writes : “The cruel way in which natives are crowded into Railway trains in the hot weather is a fertile source of disease ; the Railway authorities should be made to treat their native passengers as human beings and not like sheep in trucks.” But it is certain that neither sheep nor any other beasts would now in England be put to such straits for the necessities of life and health as the pilgrims are. A complete set of sanitary bye-laws are urgently necessary for Railway traffic, and a staff of sanitary inspectors to be present wherever there is “an ugly rush” of passengers to see that they are not evaded.

#### INFANTILE CONVULSIONS.

Here is a late prescription of Dr. Charles West for infantile convulsions.

Rx

Ammonii Bromid.	gr. 15
Sp. Ammon. Arom.	m. 30
Syrupi Tolutan.	3 iv.
Aqua Anisi	3 vi.
Aquaæ	3 viij.

M.Ft. two teaspoonfuls three times a day. The patient was 8 months old ; the convulsions were cured

by a surgical operation ; but command and relief by medicine was immediate and reliable.

#### DEATH OF HONORARY SURGEON J. HART.

1st Class Apothecary and Honorary Surgeon John Hart died at sea on board the Steam ship *Navarino* between Gibraltar and Malta 12th June last. He had been for some years civil medical officer at Pertabgurh in Oudh, had been granted 18 months furlough to Europe, but was returning to India under medical advice before the expiration of his leave when his disease assumed a fatal turn. He was buried at sea the same evening.

M. D.

#### Reviews.

*First lines of Therapeutics: as based on the modes and processes of healing occurring spontaneously in disease; and on the modes and processes of dying as resulting naturally from disease: in a Series of Lectures.* By ALEXANDER HARVEY, M.A., M.D., EDIN., Emeritus Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Aberdeen &c., &c. London : H. K. Lewis.

The fundamental principles expounded in these lectures are concisely and clearly indicated on the title page which we have reproduced at length. The author holds that it is necessary to know what nature unassisted can and does achieve in the way of restoring health and healing disease, and when and how she fails, before artificial means can be intelligently and effectively applied for the relief or cure of pain or sickness. This is profoundly true, and the more minutely and thoroughly the natural history of disease processes is studied and known the stronger will the basis of a rational science of therapeutics become. The two principles—of spontaneous cure in disease and tendency to death in disease—are presented in these lectures in great elaboration, the author fondly dwelling on his theme and setting it before his listeners and readers in a great variety of lights, with minute particularity, and much reiteration. So impressed is he with the importance of the subject, and so anxious to impress others as he is himself impressed, that he deliberately and of set purpose repeats his views and illustrations, so that there may be no mistake about their enunciation and no risk of their escaping the attention and memory of those who heard his lectures, or may read his book. And there can be no question or doubt that the convictions he entertains and desires so earnestly to impart are sound convictions, tending to honest thoughtful practice and stimulating to observation of the ways of nature. It is true that the mere knowledge of natural therapeutics, or of the manner in which diseases end in recovery or death, will never teach us what agents to use in promoting recovery or obviating death. This information must be gained by observation of another sort. But it is obviously necessary to know what the natural tendency of diseased states of the body is before the second knowledge can be profitably studied or utilized. It may be thought that the division of therapeutics into natural and artificial is a strained one,—that it is impossible in any case to say when nature ends and art begins, and that art consists in the mere adjustment of natural conditions, so that health which has been disturbed by some fault in these conditions may be restored. Nay more, it may be urged that the

scientific notion of cure consists, as Dr. Harvey would no doubt admit, in removing or modifying prejudicial influences, anticipating injurious events, restoring an uneven balance, supplying a deficient power, or introducing a foreign element for a beneficial purpose; and beyond all these objects lies the prime ministry of medicine—the prevention of disease, the preservation of health, the prolongation of life, and the postponement of death. All these purposes, however, evidently imply, as a starting point and foundation, a full knowledge of physiology, pathology and natural therapeutics, and the profession owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Harvey in bringing into prominence the views of Alison, Forbes and Gubler, to whom he dedicates his work, and laying it down so emphatically and fully that the "first lines of therapeutics" should be traced in a study of what disease is and how it ends, without the interference or interpolation of art, before the lines, somewhat broken and scattered as they still unfortunately are which traverse the science of therapeutics proper, are sought for and traced.

We heartily commend the work as an interesting and thoughtful exposition of a most important theme which Dr. Harvey handles with honesty, courage and skill.

*Observations on Leprosy; involving certain hypothetical views on its intimate pathology and on which has been grounded the successful treatment of the disease by means of Carbolic Acid in union with the vapour of water at 21°; and further suggesting the use of like means in the treatment of zymotic disease generally in Man and Beast.* By Surgeon-General WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M. D., H. M.'s Indian Medical Service. London : H. K. Lewis.

The "hypothetical views" are that leprosy is due to a *contagium vivum* which is capable of being destroyed by boiling a solution of carbolic acid in water and applying the vapour thus generated to the skin and pulmonary mucous membrane. The strength recommended is 3*iiij.* or 3*iv.* of Calvert's No. 5 to 3*x.* or 3*xii.* of water.

The existence of a "*contagium vivum*" or leprosy-germ capable of hereditary transmission and conveyance by infection has not been as yet demonstrated; still the treatment recommended might be found beneficial as a matter of experience apart from theory. Dr. Johnston cites evidence in favour of it, and as it is very easily applied, and can do no harm, it should be tried. Whether Carbolic and Cresylic acids are the best agents for destroying the *matrices morbi* on which the propagation of zymotic diseases is believed to depend, is open to question. The existence of *contagia* rests as yet on feeble evidence. When they are isolated they can be subjected to various influences, and the most destructive and convenient can then be selected. Meantime, there can be no doubt that Carbolic and Cresylic acids are good disinfectants, and possess great power of inhibiting putrefaction. The fumes of chlorine and sulphurous acid are preferred by some as volatile disinfectants, but for inhalation and application to the skin Dr. Johnston's selection and method are probably preferable.

*The Story of our Services under the Crown: a Historical Sketch of the Army Medical Staff.* By Surgeon-Major ALBERT A. GORE, A. M.D. : London : Ballier, Tindall & Co.

This book is a reprint of papers originally contributed to "Colburn's United Service Magazine." Its scope is ambitious. It aims to present a history of the aid which

medical art and medical men have rendered in war from the earliest times,—among the Greeks and Romans, Crusaders and Normans, and in the English Army since their time. The history is brought down to the year 1860, when the first competitive examination for entrance into the Army Medical School took place, under the provisions of the Royal Warrant of 1858. There is an appendix giving a précis of the Report of the Committee on the Army Medical Service in 1878. The absence of the later history of the Department is to be regretted, but there are obvious difficulties in preparing an impartial narrative of it by an officer still in the service. The book indicates a wide range of reading and research, and contains a large mass of interesting information relating to the status and services of army medical officers. We would recommend it as admirably adapted to engage an occasional leisure hour pleasantly, though we should have liked to see the sanitary and medical aspects of the past more prominently discussed.

*Pendulum Leverage of the Obstetric Forceps.* By ALBERT H. SMITH, M. D. Philadelphia.

This pamphlet, which is a reprint from Vol. III. of the Gynecological Transactions, for 1879, is a vigorous protest against the pendulum or side to side movement of the forceps in extraction. The author is at issue with the great majority of obstetric authorities.—Barnes, Simpson, Leishman, Ramsbotham, Naegele, Galabin and many others, who believe and teach that side to side movements facilitate extraction and do no harm. He follows Matthews Duncan, who strongly discountenances this manœuvre, and is able to number Carl Braun, Gustav Braun, Sitzman, Warrington, Wilson and Allen among those who believe in traction, and traction only.

Dr Smith's conclusions are as follows:—1, that pendulum movements are in direct violation of the teachings of nature; 2, that they are absolutely useless so far as any aid to traction is concerned; 3, that any virtue they have is in stimulating uterine contraction, which then acts independently of them; 4, that so far from diminishing friction they increase the mutual pressure of the head and pelvic walls thus increasing friction; 5, that they tend to do injury to the pelvic tissues no matter at what point of the pelvis they are practised; 6, that so far from being specially useful when the head is tightly "gripped" to use Dr. Galabin's expression and the extraction difficult, the greater the difficulty of the case the greater, necessarily, is the injury to the tissues. These conclusions and the arguments by which they are supported are well worthy of the attention of the profession. Dr. Smith very properly lays great stress on traction being made in the line of the pelvic axes. He also believes in a moderate amount of compression being exercised by the blades of the forceps—a sufficient amount to "take the pressure off the pelvic walls and overcome resistance," and no more.

*Correspondence.*

*ENTERIC FEVER AMONG NATIVES.*

To the Editor of the "Indian Medical Gazette."

SIR,—As facts bearing on the prevalence of Enteric Fever among the native population are of great interest, I beg to send you the enclosed extract from the monthly return of sick in the Tezpur Jail for May. I would add that as the prisoners bathe in a tank which receives much of the drainage of the town, there is no difficulty in accounting for the occurrence of the case. Natives, it is well known, never bathe without rinsing their mouths