

would appear that even then at least an hour would be required to ensure the death of these very resistant spores. We are aware that the above results do not tally with the usually accepted idea of the thermal death point of spore-bearing bacilli, but we would point out that experiments have not before, to our knowledge, been made with this particular bacillus. The experiments were carried out with every available precaution against error, and repeated often enough to ensure accuracy.

Reviews.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HYGIENE (Notter and Firth), revised and largely rewritten by Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Firth, R.A.M.C. Third Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill, 1908. 993 pp. quarto. Price 21s. net.

The appearance of the third edition of this standard and monumental work will be hailed with satisfaction on all sides. Colonel Firth has spared no pains to bring his book thoroughly up to date, and in fact, the letterpress is very largely quite new. The chapters most extensively modified are those dealing with water, food, habitations, removal and disposal of sewage, disposal of the dead, offensive trades, parasites, infectious diseases, disinfection, vital statistics, and last, but not least, military hygiene. The last chapter runs to sixty-two pages, and contains much new and interesting information, among which we note a full description, with a photograph, of the new Slack and Brownlow watercart that gave some of us so much trouble on manœuvres last summer.

As the subject of public health is now of such vital importance in the Army, we strongly recommend every officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps to procure a copy of Colonel Firth's book.

A. I. F.

THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF DISINFECTANTS. By William Partridge, F.I.C. London: Sanitary Publishing Co., 1907. 2s. 6d. net.

This is a little book of some seventy pages, giving a clear and intelligible description of the methods of conducting an examination of a disinfectant by bacteriological testing. The requisites of a true disinfectant are set forth; the fallacy of chemical methods of testing, as a practical guide to disinfectant value, is explained; and an account of the bacteriological procedure, according to the Rideal-Walker method, is given in detail, with illustrations of the apparatus required. The last two chapters describe the modifications that have been suggested in this method, viz., the use of sterile urine by Klein; of milk by Meredith, Wynter Blyth; of gelatin, mucin, &c., by Sommerville and Walker; and the two other processes, similar in principle, but different in technical details of procedure, viz., the "garnet" method and the "thread"

method. Of the former "the results are too irregular to justify its adoption as a means of obtaining any comparative figure of disinfecting efficiency" (Firth and Macfadyen): of the latter, the Royal Sanitary Institute Committee consider "the technique to be so elaborate that, no matter what may be its merits, its adoption as a standard procedure seems impossible."

Although the author is evidently strongly in favour of the particular standardising process that he describes and recommends, his statements are quite fair and unprejudiced with regard to the other methods. Major C. E. P. Fowler, R.A.M.C., contributes a short preface, summing up with the following advice to anyone reporting on the efficiency of a disinfectant: "Ascertain the value by the 'Rideal-Walker' method against a pure culture, making the dilutions with distilled water; then confirm this value by carrying out the same technique, but employing one or two per cent. of some solid organic material in making the dilutions as recommended in the Sommerville-Walker modification of the test."

The book will be useful to anyone having to deal with, and wishing to understand the action of, chemical disinfectants.

A. M. D.

THE POCKET ANATOMY. Edited by C. H. Fagge, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.Eng. London: Baillière, Tindal and Cox, 1908. Sixth Edition. Thirtieth Thousand. 269 pp. octavo. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This is our old friend "The Pocket Gray" under a new guise. We cannot help regretting the change of a name which is a cherished memory with so many a disciple of Æsculapius. As good wine needs no bush, so this well-known cram-book needs no praise. Its reputation is old and well-established. In our opinion it is by far the best "tabloid" anatomy in the market. From personal experience we can strongly recommend it to all who are preparing for an examination in anatomy. In the words of Bulloch (not the eminent pathologist):—

"What '*Bohn*' is to the neophyte in Arts,
What keys are to the mathematic dolt,
What spurs are to the trainer when he starts
The breaking of a dilatory colt;
This book is to the medical who smarts,
While grappling with anatomy's array;
Need I tell you that the title of this *vade mecum* vital
Is the famous and familiar 'Pocket Gray'?"

A. I. F.

FEVERS IN THE TROPICS: THEIR CLINICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL DIFFERENTIATION, INCLUDING THE MILROY LECTURES ON KALA-AZAR. By Leonard Rogers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.Eng., I.M.S., Professor of Pathology, Calcutta Medical College. London: Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press, and Hodder and Stoughton, 1908. 343 pp. quarto. Price 30s. net.

The appearance of this scholarly and exhaustive, yet most readable work on tropical fevers, will be eagerly welcomed by every student of tropical medicine. Besides putting the classical knowledge of the diseases treated of in a clear and intelligent form, Major Rogers has included in his valuable book a vast amount of original work, the result of pro-

longed and arduous personal investigation of many forms of oriental disease. We note specially the admirable manner in which the subject-matter is arranged and tabulated, thus greatly facilitating reference, a most important point in a work of this description. A specially interesting chapter is that dealing with "unclassified short fevers." The differential diagnosis of "seven-day fever" from dengue is very clearly put. We recommend Major Rogers's book to all who require a work of reference on tropical fevers.

A. I. F.

AIDS TO SURGERY. By Joseph Cuning, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.Eng. Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindal and Cox, 1908. 404 pp. octavo. Price 4s. net.

We welcome the second edition of this admirable little book. It has been revised and brought thoroughly up to date. The sections on gall-stones and diseases of the pancreas have been entirely rewritten. We have no hesitation in strongly recommending this *multum in parvo* to all those who have the misfortune to be going up for an examination in surgery. Our Royal Army Medical Corps Captains ought to find it a friend in need, during the six months of intellectual struggle before their majority examination. We cannot describe Mr. Cuning's book better than by saying that it is a pocket "Rose and Carless." Any man who knows it from board to board will get his "Special."

A. I. F.

THE ROTUNDA PRACTICAL MIDWIFERY. By E. H. Tweedy, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., and G. T. Wrench, M.D. 464 pp. quarto. London: Henry Frowde, and Hodder and Stoughton, 1908. Price 16s. net.

This is a practical book on midwifery, embodying the teaching of the Rotunda school. It contains no pathology or mechanics of obstetrics, except where essential for understanding proposed treatment. The conduct of normal labour is dealt with, and the closest attention given to every practical detail, however small.

The book forms an admirable guide for men beginning obstetric work, and who want the essential steps of procedure fully and clearly stated.

A. I. F.

BLOOD EXAMINATION AND ITS VALUE IN TROPICAL DISEASE. By Claud F. Fothergill, M.R.C.S., L.P.C.P., B.A., M.B., B.C.(Cantab.). London: Henry Kimpton. 34 pp. octavo. Price 2s. 6d. net.

This little book aims at giving an account of the blood conditions in the chief tropical diseases. In our opinion its value as a handbook is much diminished by a complete absence of any headings or tabulation. We quite agree with the author that it is "best to refer seriatim to various tropical diseases rather than make several subdivisions according to changes in the appearance and number of the corpuscles," which involves frequent repetition and overlapping. At the same time we consider that each disease should be clearly marked by a new heading, and that the blood-changes in each case should be tabulated on some common system. In these days of steam and strenuousness one cannot

afford to wade through half-a-dozen pages looking for some particular disorder or symptom.

The most interesting part of the book is a series of thirty cases of various tropical ailments, extracted from the Reports of the Seamen's Hospital, recorded with special reference to the blood condition in each.

A. I. F.

Current Literature.

Precautions for the Prevention of Enteric Fever in the French Army.—A comprehensive circular has just been issued by the French War Office, and published in the *Journal Officiel de la Republique Française* of January 14th, 1908, on the subject of the prevention of enteric fever in the Army. It commences by drawing attention to the excessive incidence of enteric fever in the French Army; and states that the disease is more frequent in the Army than among the civil population, and is, along with tuberculosis, the principal cause of death. The lowest record was in 1902, and even then the admission-rate among the home troops was 3·79 per 1,000 and the death-rate 0·52 per 1,000.

Attention is drawn to the importance of water supplies in spreading the disease, to the conveyance of the germ from man to man by fæces or urine, and also by less commonly recognised conditions, such as atypical gastro-intestinal inflammations, gastric fevers, bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia, indefinite febrile conditions, ordinary diarrhoea, sore throats, affections of biliary ducts, slight renal inflammations, appendicitis and recurring otitis. Enteric dissemination from these affections, the circular states, is commoner than is supposed.

Reference is made to a report by *Médecin-inspecteur Vaillard*, who was instructed to investigate the subject. This report has been approved by the Advisory Committee on military hygiene and epidemiology, and the following prophylactic measures are in future to be carried out in the Army:—

(1) General sanitary precautions in cases of infectious disease, viz., prompt admission of the patient to hospital, isolation and observation of suspects; observation of men occupying adjoining beds in barracks and frequent medical inspections; disinfection of excreta, bedding, clothing, linen and infected localities; scrupulous cleanliness and disinfection of latrines, urinals and their vicinity, &c.

(2) Careful supervision of water-supplies of all kinds, and lectures &c., to the men on the risk of drinking non-potable water in or out of barracks.

(3) Supervision of milk supplies.

(4) Washing vegetables intended to be eaten uncooked, in running water; and prohibition of the eating of uncooked vegetables during prevalence of epidemics.

(5) Retention of cases of enteric fever in hospital till bacteriological examination of the stools and urine show them to be free from Eberth's bacillus. Should a patient be given convalescent furlough while still carrying Eberth's bacillus, he is to be specially warned of the risk to