A NEW PATTERN OF BEDSIDE TABLE FOR INDIA.

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The following specification of a bedside table designed by Barrack Sergeant Hodgson, Nasirabad, may prove of interest to those who have been working in India, and had experience with the present unsatisfactory pattern.

The new model has been on trial here for some time, and has proved itself satisfactory in all respects. The accompanying photograph shows its general appearance.

Specification—frame, teakwood. Lower partition converted into a fly-proof cupboard by sides and folding doors of wire gauze. Upper partition open for patient’s clothes. Table top, plain teak without iron binding. Mineral water bracket for two bottles at side next patient’s bed. Towel-rail at back. Height of table 2 feet 9 inches; front (top) elevation 2 feet; end (top) elevation 1 foot 3 inches; cupboard space 1 foot 8 inches by 11½ by 11½ inches, clothing space 1 foot 8 inches by 11½ by 10½ inches.

The following are its chief advantages over the old pattern: (1) Fly-proof cupboard at bottom enables food to be kept clean and free from fly pollution. The present fragile unsatisfactory bread crock can be dispensed with. (2) The reduction in the large number of iron bands
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between which and the woodwork, dirt, bugs, &c., found lodgment.
(3) The outside mineral water bracket places the bottles within easy
reach of a sick man. (4) The provision of a towel-rail at the back.
The cost is a little less than that of the present pattern.

Electric Ions and their Use in Medicine. By Professor Stephane
Leduc, Professor at the School of Medicine at Nantes. Translated
by R. W. Mackenna, M.A., M.B.Edin., Physician to the Liverpool
Skin Hospital, with an Appendix by the Translator. London:
Rebman Limited, 1908. Price 2s. 6d. net.

Professor Stephane Leduc is a well-known authority on the subject
of treatment by ions, and the practical results of his investigations, as
presented in this excellent translation of his monograph by Dr. R. W.
Mackenna, are of considerable interest and value. Since the day when
Faraday first gave the name of "travellers" to the constituents of
electrolytes set free at the electrodes by the passage of an electric current,
the theory of electric ions has made much progress, and of recent years
their application to practical medicine has opened up a field of great
possibilities for future therapeutics.

In Section I. the laws of osmotic pressure are discussed, and their
action in the phenomena of life explained. The remarks on cryoscopy are
well expressed, but the subject—a most important one—occupies a very
small part of the section. Although Van't Hoff's law is mentioned, we
see no allusion to that of Raoult for concentrated solutions.

The section dealing with the ions is remarkably clear and well
expressed. The chemical, toxic, antiseptic and remedial actions of the
electrolytic substances are shown to be due to the action of their ions,
and their significance in practical medicine is lucidly set forth.

As is probably well known, preparations of mercury and iodide of
potassium, to have any real effect, are best given in locomotor ataxia by
intramuscular injection, but the author goes further and states that if
ataxia is recognised and treated by intramuscular injection of sublimate
as soon as the first symptoms appear, the disease will be recovered
from completely. He also states that it is more especially those cases of
syphilis treated insufficiently in the beginning—slight cases which may
not have been recognised or have been neglected—which produce locomotor
ataxia.

In our Army at the present time, owing to the improved methods of
treatment by intramuscular injection in the very earliest stages of syphilis,
such cases of locomotor ataxia are hardly likely to occur, but the possibility
has always to be borne in mind.

It is noted that the author does not agree with the view still held by
many, that tabes is a parasyphilitic affection, and that specific treatment
never cures, but always aggravates it. It is probable that the majority of
physicians in this country are in accord with Dr. Leduc.