

Reviews.

TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE. By C. W. Daniels. Part III.
London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This third Part of Daniels' "Tropical Medicine" deals with diseases due to bacteria and other vegetable parasites, to dietetic errors and to unknown causes. The two earlier Parts have already been reviewed in this Journal and, in the main, the criticisms which were made about them apply to this volume. We get the impression that the book was compiled from notes made for lectures, added to from time to time, and that it is badly in need of rearranging. The absence of orderly arrangement has resulted in some curious omissions; we have already referred in former reviews to the inadequate description of liver abscess. In this volume, for example, the chapter on "Cholera" contains no mention of suppression of urine as one of the chief dangers; whilst the differential diagnosis of plague is omitted. Three pages are devoted to enteric fever; this is such a very important disease in the Tropics that one would have thought it worth while to deal with it thoroughly, if at all. The section on "Bacillary Dysentery" is better than most of them, and we were pleased to find the writer insisting on the fact that dysentery may occur without the passage of obvious blood or mucus at any time. The arrangement of the book according to causes of disease has resulted in divorcing the description of bacillary dysentery from that of amoebic dysentery, a considerable disadvantage in a book intended for the instruction of tropical practitioners. One extraordinary slip occurs on page 52, where it is stated that "it is sounder to prepare an anti-dysenteric serum (*sic*) from the organisms isolated from the patient's stool or blood." As the preparation of a horse takes several months, this seems a somewhat futile proceeding; possibly the author meant vaccine, but the context leads one to believe that he had serum in his mind.

In the section on "The Disposal of Excreta" we were sorry to see the abominable system of making "Poudrette" described without any words of condemnation. The dry-earth system in India slew thousands of soldiers in its time, and the "Poudrette" system is infinitely worse, since for a paltry profit to the town or station it secures the distribution of infective material over the whole neighbourhood.

The book is nicely got up, there is plenty of good matter in it, but it is very badly in need of editing. W. S. H.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY. First-aid Manual, No. 1. By Colonel James Cantlie, V.D., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (T.F.). Cassell and Co., Limited, 1912. Pp. 210. Illustrations 120. Price 1s. net.

The author has compiled a series of three manuals, previously referred to in this Journal, as the official Manuals of the British Red Cross Society, issued with the approval of the War Office and primarily intended for the use of Voluntary Aid Detachments.

No. 1 covers the whole field of First-aid and is clear, concise, and well

illustrated. Apart from its suitability for any one taking up Red Cross work, it will form the recognized text-book on First-aid for Voluntary Aid Detachments.
C. H.

MILITARY HYGIENE AND SANITATION. By Colonel C. H. Melville, R.A.M.C. Edward Arnold, 1912. Pp. vii. and 418. Price 12s. 6d. net.

The late Professor of Hygiene at the Royal Army Medical College has not attempted in this book to deal with the whole science of hygiene, limiting himself to those parts of it that are most important for the military officer, combatant or medical. He has thus given himself more space for dealing fully with certain questions that are either not dealt with at all in the ordinary manuals, or are only touched on superficially. The method of treatment is quite original, and is throughout calculated to arouse and maintain the reader's interest. Beginning with a consideration of the recruit, his condition and training, the author deals at length with the subjects of dieting, water supply, removal of waste matters, barracks, clothing and equipment, concluding with chapters on "Prevention of Disease and Disinfection." The discussion of these matters is fresh and vigorous, the note of personal experience is everywhere obvious: the writer draws on his own first-hand knowledge and abstains from the repetition of time-honoured (perhaps antiquated) formulæ.

It is clearly stated that sanitation is to be considered as a form of insurance; the amount of money to be spent on it is that sum which will effectually protect the soldier from physical inefficiency and disease; this principle is readily recognized in private life, on the large scale in regard to a great public Service the same considerations should hold good; the amount to be expended on the insurance is to be proportioned to the benefit that results. Some very sensible remarks are made in chapter II on "The Relations between Sanitary Officers (*i.e.*, Medical Officers), D.D.M.S.'s and Combatant Officers:—"The sanitary officer is a staff officer to the D.D.M.S. or A.D.M.S. as the case may be, and not to the Commander-in-Chief, or General Officer Commanding." The responsible adviser of the General is the D.D.M.S., he may delegate his sanitary powers largely to the sanitary officer, but he cannot delegate his sanitary responsibility. Moreover, "the executive sanitary officers of the British Army are the squadron, company and battery officers." This is not always realized by those officers themselves.

It is difficult to select one chapter more than another as of especial interest: each subject is dealt with in a fresh and original manner, with a personal note throughout. A useful distinction is drawn between "physical education," which is a matter of learning, and "physical training," that is, the practice of regular exercise to maintain "fitness." The now happily abandoned "breathing exercises" are criticized; they are still apparently in use in the French Army. Colonel Melville considers, in regard to water purification, that if it is necessary, it should be carried out under some central authority, and not by the individual consumer, or "under regimental arrangements." Everyone acquainted with the conditions that in practice attend so-called "purification" by comparatively unskilled, and (in regard to this matter) ignorant persons, will endorse this opinion. The author is not sparing of criticism when needful. The bandolier method of carrying ammunition, until

lately in use in our army, is stigmatized as the worst possible, from the physiological point of view, hampering every respiration, and greatly impeding evaporation from the chest. The proper method of carrying food and necessaries is carefully explained. It must be admitted that there are difficulties in the selection and suitable arrangement of the *sine quâ non* articles and perhaps finality has not yet been reached.

The prevention of infectious disease is considered under the three heads of (a) the source of infection, that is, the infected man; (b) the disease germ, which constitutes the infective agent; and (c) the non-infected man, who has to be protected. The different ways by which infection leaves (a) and enters (c) are detailed, and the various measures applicable to each case considered; the principles of prevention are thus made logically clear and practically intelligible.

Throughout the work there is evidence of the writer's wide experience. This, and the fresh and vigorous mode of expression, render the work more interesting and readable than scientific text-books are wont to be. Though primarily intended for the use of medical officers it will be found to be both interesting and profitable to officers of all branches of the military service.

ELEMENTS OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE. By A. H. Carter, M.D., M.Sc., &c., &c., Professor of Medicine, University of Birmingham.
 Publisher: H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, London, W.C.
 Tenth Edition. Pp. xviii and 683.

The tenth edition of Dr. Carter's "Elements of Medicine" well maintains the reputation of its predecessors. The concise method of arrangement is followed, as in former editions, but the whole book has been carefully revised and much of the text has been re-written and modified. For reference, and especially for examination purposes, the book will, we think, be found valuable; as the information given under the various sections is precise, definite, and covers all the main points concerned.

The sections on "Chronic Valvular Disease of the Heart," and "The Diseases and Functional Disorders of the Stomach," are most instructive, and the section and subsections dealing with "The Diseases of the Nervous System" are written clearly, and will well repay perusal. The general structure and functions of the nervous system are explained in a simple and lucid manner, and will be found most useful to those who have got a little out of touch with cervical and spinal topography.

The section on "The Diseases of the Skin" contains a simple classification of the skin affections most commonly met with in practice. The appearances are clearly described, and treatment briefly and concisely given. The rashes produced by drugs are also dealt with.

Owing to the scope of the book, tropical diseases and parasites are not dealt with to any full extent, but the symptoms and treatment are briefly described. In the subsection on "Appendicitis" we think that the necessity for early surgical interference might be perhaps more emphasized.

The book is well printed, and of a convenient size. The concise and accurate nature of its contents, together with its comparatively small

bulk (a matter of consideration to medical officers) renders the book in our opinion, a very useful addition to an officer's library.

F. M. M.

CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY AND HÆMATOLOGY. By W. d'Este Emery. Fourth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. Price 7s. 6d. net.

This fourth edition of Dr. Emery's well-known book differs but little from the third edition, except that a section on "Wassermann's Reaction" has been added. The fact that a fourth edition has been called for is sufficient evidence that the book has supplied a want, and indeed it is a most excellent handbook for the laboratory; the descriptions of technique are clear enough for even a novice to follow, while the inferences to be drawn from findings are given in a practical and very helpful manner. The work is intended primarily for the instruction of those who have not had much previous practice in the application of bacteriology and hæmatology to clinical work, but the expert also will find much useful information between its covers, and it is not too much to say that Dr. Emery's handbook should find a place in the library of every well equipped laboratory.

W. S. H.

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY. By Professor P. A. Ellis, Richards, F.I.C. Second Edition, 1912. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Price 3s. net.

This little book is written more especially for medical and dental students, and contains all the subject-matter required in the new syllabus of the Conjoint Board Preliminary Science Examination, besides additional "detection tables" and a certain amount of volumetric analysis, arranged to meet the requirements of the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the London University. The special tests for the metals, acids, and organic substances are so arranged that the student should have no difficulty in acquiring a sound knowledge of the subjects. The separation tables given are clearly explained and serve well to elucidate the analysis of special mixtures containing not more than two metals and one acid radicle. The directions given for the preparation of certain salts are clear and devoid of unnecessary technical detail. They are of great importance in practical teaching and add considerably to the value of the book. The last part of the book has been devoted to some general reactions of the common poisons, a subject concerning which the ordinary student has often very little knowledge. Here, however, he has some very good practical hints which should form a sound basis for extended study in forensic medicine.

We are very glad to see that this little book has reached its second edition and can thoroughly recommend it as a sound practical elementary treatise on the subject.

W. W. O. B.

