this poison. If the patient was able to swallow, salines were given by the mouth to stimulate the action of the bowel, and the imperial drink was given so as to stimulate the kidneys. With regard to blood-letting, it was his opinion that in people of a plethoric habit good results could be got. In the cases described by him that night, blood-letting, however, did not seem to him a proper method of treatment. Speaking of the value of pilocarpine, he believed there was great danger of oedema of the lungs, especially when the patient was in a weakened and unconscious condition.

On the motion of the President, Dr. Jardine was accorded a cordial vote of thanks for his interesting contribution.

---

**REVIEWs.**

*The Hygiene of Transmissible Diseases.* By A. C. Abbott, M.D. London: The Rebman Publishing Co., Limited. 1899.

This work deals with that part of the very large subject of hygiene which has to do with the causation and transmissibility of the infective and contagious diseases, their modes of dissemination, and their prevention. In treating of the predisposing causes of disease, the author points out in what manner age, sex, and race affect the problem. Culling mainly from United States’ statistics, he points out, generally, that the death-rates of the negro population, as compared with those of the white, are much higher; at the same time, he is careful to indicate that social conditions probably form as important factors in such results as racial peculiarities. In discussing the relative predisposition of the Jewish race to that of other peoples, he corroborates the well-established fact that the Jews are more immune to tubercular and acute infective diseases generally; but, quoting from Billings’ *Vital Statistics of the Jews of the United States*, he shows that, in respect of diphtheria, diarrhoeal diseases, and diseases of the nervous system, they have a relatively higher death-rate than their fellow-citizens of other nationalities. He attributes the comparative longevity of the Jewish race—and we agree—to the punctilious observance of the Talmudic regulations regarding the hygiene of the home, of the person, and of food.
We dismiss this by remarking that it would be very remarkable indeed, were the result otherwise, because there is no other nation in which, for so long a period, have hygienic principles been pursued; at the same time, such a result ought to be an object-lesson to other peoples, and worthy of emulation.

Of the other influences predisposing to disease generally, he instances occupation. Following in this the statistics of Ogle, he, however, takes no note of the investigations of Bertillon, Arlidge, or Ward Richardson.

In considering the effect of density of population upon disease-production, the author avails himself of the main facts of Dr. J. B. Russell’s paper on the “ticketed houses” of Glasgow; and, respecting heredity, he is of the school of those who believe that it acts more “through the transmission of a peculiar habit of body than by the transmission of disease itself,” while, at the same time, he indicates that that statement does not embrace the entire truth, or the last word, on the subject.

Seasonal influences upon disease form an interesting section of a chapter. Malaria prevails most in the autumnal months of August, September, and October; diarrhoeal diseases in American cities cause the greatest mortality during the time of greatest heat—viz., July; and enteric fever, to which, throughout his book, he gives the older name of typhoid fever, prevails in America, as in Britain, most largely in the months of autumn. On this subject we would only remark in passing that the intimate factors which contribute to the larger prevalence of haematozoa and micro-organisms during these periods are not yet sufficiently comprehended to enable observers to do more than note such facts as the above.

The second section of the work treats of the transmissible diseases. Illustrative of the transmissibility and dissemination of enteric fever, there are some excellent charts and diagrams, which demonstrate the relation of this disease to polluted water-supplies, its relative prevalence in sewered as compared with non-sewered populous places, and of its comparative less prevalence after the introduction of sewers into cities and towns previously non-sewered. He points out that the average death-rate per 10,000 in cities that have a good water-supply and are well-sewered is 2.4, whereas in cities without sewers, or imperfectly sewered, it is as high as 10 per 10,000; and, further, that in every city of the Continent, of America, and of Great Britain, where a good water-supply and sewerage system have been installed, very considerable
reductions in the death-rates from this disease have resulted. Respecting its dissemination by polluted water-supplies, maps and plans illustrative of the epidemics of Lausen and of Wittemburg, on the Continent of Europe, and of Plymouth and Philadelphia, in America, amply prove his theses; and, as a very significant illustration of the value of the filtration of a water-supply, he instances Hamburg, where the death-rate from this disease fell from 39.7 to 5 per 100,000. In this connection, we miss any reference to the Maidstone epidemic. The same plan of treatment has been followed respecting cholera, and the incidence of this disease in Hamburg and Altona with reference to the water-supply is illustrated by a map. In Hamburg, where the water was delivered unfiltered, there were 264 cases per 10,000 of population; and in Altona, where it was filtered, there were only 34 cases per 10,000.

We regret to see the subject of "tropical dysentery" dismissed in a couple of pages, since this is one of the most troublesome diseases of warm and tropical climates.

The author adds nothing new to the subject of tuberculosis. He regards human, bovine, and avian tubercle as identical in entity, deems indiscriminately scattered expectoration as one of the chief causative factors of dissemination of the disease, advocates compulsory disinfection thereof as the best preventive measure, offers no opinion on the subject of ranking it among the other infective diseases, and dismisses the relation of its production to the flesh meat supply in about a dozen lines.

Respecting diphtheria, he notes that the experience of the Health Laboratory of Philadelphia shows that the average period of duration of the bacillus in the throat, dating from the establishment of its presence by bacteriological diagnosis, is twenty-nine days; but the extremes of time vary from seven to one hundred and twelve days.

Bubonic plague he identifies, we think very properly, with the "Great Plague" of London, and with the "Black Death." It is interesting to note—since the fact is not alluded to in any manual of hygiene with which we are acquainted—that one of the most graphic clinical accounts of the black death is to be found in the induction of the Decameron of Boccaccio, where he describes its outbreak and spread in Florence in 1348. "It began with young children," says he, "male and female, either under the armpits or in the groin, by certain swellings, in some the bigness of an apple, in others like an egg, and so in divers greater or lesser, which in their vulgar language they termed to be a botch or boil. In very short,
time after, those two infected parts were grown mortiferous, and would disperse abroad indifferently to all parts of the body; whereupon, it was the quality of the disease to show itself by black or blue spot, which would appear on the arms of many, others on their thighs, and every part else of the body—in some, great and few; in others, small and thick.” He further tells how the lower animals were affected, instancing two pigs that tossed the clothes of a dead body lying in the street, upon which they fell dead. The prophylactic measures which the author advises do not include any account of the special researches of Dr. Marsh, of Glasgow—at present on plague duty in India—on efficient measures for the disinfection of the earthen-floored huts of the native Indian population.

The author devotes well-deserved attention to the subject of venereal diseases viewed in their State relations; and, while he urges continency and celibacy as the most effective personal preventive measures, he does not hesitate to pronounce the opinion that, in view of the known existence of these diseases, and the disastrous results which follow in their train, administrative measures by the State for their repression are urgently and imperatively demanded.

Dealing with leprosy, the writer gives the usual information respecting the intimate cause of the disease; but respecting its genesis, or the modes by which it is initiated, he has no theory to add to the many existing ones. It seem to us as a most remarkable fact that, respecting a disease which is, clinically, as well described in the pages of the Old Testament as in the most modern text-book, we are to-day no nearer its mode of transmission than in the days of Moses.

The subjects of glanders, actinomycosis, small-pox, malaria, and other diseases are severally discussed by Dr. Abbott, and, probably, of these named, the treatment of malaria is the best, as embodying the results of the latest investigations; but while he mentions the work of foreign workers, he gives no place to that of Manson, Ross, and others among British workers.

From careful investigation of the researches of Sanarelli and others respecting the prime causative factor of yellow fever, Dr. Abbott reaches the conclusion that the bacillus icteroides of Sanarelli is not that factor, and he hazards the view that it is more likely to be a hæmatozoon, zoologically allied to the malarial parasite.

He next gives a compendious but comprehensive account of the diseases in man due to the highly-developed animal
parasites, and in connection with filariasis, he does justice to the luminous researches of Manson.

In the chapter on prophylaxis in general against infective diseases, due consideration is paid to the entrancing subject of immunity, regarding which he places before the reader the views of Buchner, Behring, Ehrlich, and Pfeiffer, and, although the subject is by no means exhaustively treated, we are of opinion that, after perusal of the chapter, the reader will have received a fairly accurate conception of the subject.

Vaccination, protective inoculation, antitoxins, and serum-therapy receive some attention.

Classified under the heading of chemical and physical prophylactic measures is disinfection. Sulphurous acid is characterised as a disinfectant of the "greatest general usefulness," although in a few sentences farther on we are informed that its usefulness is comparatively limited. We are personally of opinion that, as ordinarily carried out, there is no more delusive form of disinfection; and we trust that sanitarians and writers on sanitary science will soon take courage to give it its quietus, and every other mode of "aërial" disinfection. The author pins his faith to formaldehyde gas for room-disinfection, generated either from tablets of polymerised formaldehyde, or from a watery solution of formalin, with 10 per cent of added glycerine. But he advocates, after such disinfection, that the ceilings and walls of the infected room should be wiped down with cloths wrung out of 3 per cent carbolic acid solution, 1:2000 solution of corrosive sublimate, or '5 per cent of chloride of lime. The Continental modes of treatment are dismissed in a few lines. Of the other germicides, he highly recommends the cresols, especially when mixed with an equal volume of sulphuric acid, coldly advises the use of corrosive sublimate, and heartily praises the usefulness of chloride of lime. Disinfection by steam under pressure receives due consideration, and the "King-Sprague" disinfector is given as an illustration of an excellent form of apparatus. Other apparatus are not mentioned, and that of Thresh, the principle of the operation of which differs so much from the usual steam apparatus, seems to be unknown to the author.

In discussing the disinfection of places, Dr. Abbott includes the disinfection of wells and cisterns. The author emphasises the fact that all drinking-water should be above suspicion of pollution—a proposition to which everyone will agree; but what is to be done where the only available well has become polluted? This is what he advises:—To pour into the well-
water a mixture of equal parts of raw carbolic acid and sulphuric acid until the mixture reaches 5 per cent of the well-contents; thereafter pump out the contents, allow the well to refill, and re-pump again and again till all traces of the disinfecting mixture have disappeared. These are difficult, and, perchance, dangerous measures, which, moreover, occupy some time, during which the consumers must look for other sources of supply. Besides, easier and equally efficient measures could be adopted. Why should not all the water for cooking and drinking purposes be properly boiled, and then filtered, if necessary, through a periodically cleansed filter? Or why should not Koch's mode of dealing with such a contingency be adopted—viz., by filling the well with clean sand to the level of the lowest summer water-level, and placing in its centre an iron tube with its lower end expanded and perforated, through which the filtered water might be pumped to the surface.

It is, indeed, difficult to comprehend such advice as the above, especially when the author, speaking of the purification of potable water by boiling, says that "no process of chemical disinfection can in any way compare with this method from the standpoint of safety and practical utility." Boiling, therefore, could be continued in a contingency such as the foregoing until, at least, a new source of supply of good wholesome water was available.

After careful perusal, however, of the book as a whole, we have formed the opinion that it will form a serviceable guide to the student of public health, and so we commend it to our readers. The illustrations are very apt and good, and the whole "get up" of the book sustains the reputation of the firm which publishes it.

An American Text-Book of Surgery. Edited by William W. Keen, M.D., LL.D., and J. William White, M.D., Ph.D. Third Edition. London: Rebman, Limited. 1899.

In the present edition of this standard work on surgery, the volumes have been brought up to date by the introduction of several paragraphs dealing with such subjects as orrhotherapy, leucocytosis, lumbar puncture, forcible correction of angular curvature of the spine, hand-disinfection, &c. The account which is given of skin-grafting calls for notice, and the paragraphs on Schleich's method of producing local anesthesia is also good. In this subject, however, no mention is made of the endermic injection of the drug.
Speaking generally, the treatment of the newer subjects, while necessarily brief in a work such as the present, is nevertheless clear, and should give the student a good idea of the present-day application of the art of surgery.

Praise must be given to the coloured plate which illustrates diseased conditions of the vermiform appendix, and in this subject the text is carefully and thoroughly worked out. As in the previous editions, the wealth of illustration is a noticeable feature.

One or two mistakes occur in the index, and we are told in the section on kidneys that horse-shoe kidney usually depends on the union of the upper ends of these organs.

We can recommend the book to students, both on account of the comprehensiveness of its contents and on its readable style.

Transactions of the American Surgical Association. Vol. XVII. Edited by D. Forest Willard, M.D. Philadelphia: W. J. Dornan. 1899.

The volume contains the papers read at the meeting of the Association in May and June, 1899, and opens with a communication on total laryngectomy, by W. W. Keen. The technique of the operation which he performed may be summarised as follows:—Trendelenburg position, thyrotomy, freeing of larynx, low tracheotomy, division of trachea, separation of larynx from oesophagus, suture of anterior wall of pharynx to infrahyoid tissues, suture of trachea to skin, withdrawal of tracheotomy tube, closure of skin incision above. He thinks the tracheotomy might have been dispensed with. Military surgery forms the subject of papers by Senn, Fowler, and Nancrede, while Estes has a contribution on the subject of gunshot wounds in civil practice. There are three papers on appendicitis. The first of these, by Richardson, is good, and, in the discussion which follows, one notes the general tone in favour of conservative measures in dealing with acute cases, and the appreciation of the dangers of breaking up adhesions by a search for the appendix. The second is on the subject of hernia in the operation scar (Harrington). The tendency to this will be lessened by avoiding drainage (if possible), by cutting in the length of muscular and tendinous fibres, and by suturing in layers. Mechanical appliances (belts) are harmful, while exercising the abdominal muscles is to be recommended. Van der Veer's
Reviews.

Paper on unusual cases of appendicitis is very indefinite. Kocher, of Berne, has a long contribution on hand-disinfection, of the which the main feature is the *quaestio vexata* of operating in gloves. If required at all, they are especially useful at the stage of ligaturing and suturing, to obviate contamination of the materials used for these purposes. "Nephrectomy *versus* Nephrotomy" is gone into by Ransohoff. Cushing describes a "right-angled" continuous intestinal suture, and also a method whereby the periosteum is used to replace tibiae necrotic from acute osteomyelitis. Some shorter contributions, including a case of removal of oesophageal diverticulum (Hearn), and a description of Laplace's forceps for intestinal anastomosis, close these *Transactions*.

There are numerous illustrations of high quality throughout the volume, which itself represents a large amount of work, and which speaks well for the character of the meeting of the Association.

---

*A Manual of Gynaecological Practice for Students and Practitioners.* By Dr. A. Dührssen. Second English Edition. Translated and Edited from the Sixth German Edition by John H. Taylor, F.R.C.S., and Frederick Edge, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. With 125 Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1900.

There is a tendency at the present day to write very large books on all medical and surgical subjects. The book before us is a happy exception. In 276 pages Dr. Dührssen has given us an exceedingly well written manual of gynaecological practice, which should be of great use to students and practitioners alike. The anatomical introduction is a mere sketch, but it is sufficiently full to refresh the memory of the anatomy of the female genital organs. The description of the methods of examination, and the aseptic precautions to be taken as regards instruments, &c., are very clear and detailed.

The author's method of vaginal fixation of the uterus, which is somewhat modified from that first introduced by him, is very fully explained. His results have been exceedingly good, and later pregnancies have not been adversely influenced by the fixed position of the uterus. All operators have not been so fortunate in this respect. He is a strong advocate of the vaginal route for hysterectomies, removal of small fibroid, or ovarian tumours, &c.

In regard to the treatment of bleeding fibroids, he does not
Reviews.

seem to go in largely for the removal of the tubes and ovaries, neither does he seem to regard Apostoli's method with much favour. He considers that curetting, and the application of caustics or vaporisation with steam at 100° C., answers the purpose better. We can hardly agree with him that small myomata should be removed as soon as diagnosed.

In speaking of carcinoma of the uterus, he holds that it is local in the beginning, and can be permanently cured if operated on soon enough by total extirpation. He says—"Every woman who, after the cessation of menstruation, has again commenced to bleed, should be considered as carcinomatous until the surgeon has investigated the case, and found no sort of sign of carcinoma." We entirely agree with this.

The book is well illustrated, but some of the plates have been badly printed. The translators have done their work so well that it is difficult to realise that it is a translation. The explanatory notes they have added are useful. To our mind "the renowned English gynaecologist" does not convey a true description of the great Simpson. The translators can hardly urge the Poet Laureate's excuse. We may give up much to the "predominant partner," but Simpson must ever remain a Scotsman.

The Frog: An Introduction to Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology. By the late A. Milnes Marshall, M.D. Seventh Edition. Edited by G. Herbert Fowler, B.A., Ph.D. London: David Nutt. 1900.

This excellent little book is already too well known in its previous editions to require much notice now. The principal feature of the new edition is a series of woodcuts illustrating the development and metamorphosis of the frog. These woodcuts are, like the others, well done, and show clearly the points which it is desired to emphasise. Besides the addition referred to, there has also been added a list of illustrations, and the index has been recast.

On referring to the pages on histological methods, we find that a few improvements might well be made. Thus, formalin should be mentioned as an important fixing agent. As regards staining, the anilin dyes, which are now so important in this process, are not mentioned in the present edition. This should be corrected.

The book remains, however, one of the best introductions to the subject that we have.