Classification.—The first attempt under this head appears to have been laid down by a regulation in 1793, which divided prisoners into five classes, according to the length of the term of imprisonment, and continued in force until the subject was examined by the Committee of 1836.

They reviewed the whole subject, and laid down the axiom that the principle to be kept in view in classifying offenders was to guard the morals of one set from being contaminated by another; they recommended the division of offenders into some ten distinct classes, stating, however, that "on the subject of classification they find it impossible to offer any very definite or practical recommendations." The Government of the day acknowledged the difficulties, and the great expense and inconvenience which such a minute division would require but promise support to the whole subject on sanction being received from the Court of Directors.

The Committee of 1864 next take up the subject; they base a system of classification upon

I.—Offences against the person; sub-dividing them into

a. Eleven different offences with premeditated malice.
b. Twenty-two offences without premeditation.

II.—Offences against property; dividing these into

a. Robbery or theft with aggravating circumstances, under 8 different heads; and
b. Simple theft, or offences against property without aggravating circumstances, specifying 16 different crimes.

"It was admitted, however, that in the existing jails the system could not be completely carried out, and separation according to (1) sex, (2) age, (3) religion, and (4) nature of punishment, was indicated to be of prior necessity." In the majority of the jails of Bengal Proper, owing to structural defects of the buildings, and from their deficiency of accommodation the prisoners work in association by day, but are placed in wards at night, according to the nature of their sentences." In Madras, classification in central jails is to be based on "the conduct of the prisoners, and not the nature of their offences;" but in this Presidency as well as in Bengal and Bombay, all the rules under this head are generally in advance of the system actually in force, showing very clearly that the structural and internal arrangements of prisons are not yet adapted for minute classification or division of offenders.

In the North-Western Provinces, owing to there being more central jails, "all convicts are divided into five classes, according to the nature of their offences. Each class is distinguished by its clothing, and any intercourse between separate classes is strictly forbidden."

(to be continued.)

**Reviews.**

*Dr. Charles’s Pamphlets.*

We have received a communication from Dr. Charles in which he objects to our entertaining the idea that, in the absence of good vaccination, he would advocate inoculation for smallpox, under restrictions. We certainly were under the impression that these were his views; for Mr. Strachey intimated as much in his seat in Council, and what he said was published in the *Gazette of India.* But, we are only too happy to think that we have been mistaken; and it is certainly most satisfactory to feel that one of our ablest leaders in the school of "vaccine reform" is so staunch a conservative as we are now assured he is.

*Manual of Skin Diseases.* By Dr. Tilbury Fox. Published by H. Renshaw, London, 1869. Second edition. Price 6s.

The preface of this royal 32mo volume of 472 pages states the object of the work to be a concise and practical account of diseases of the skin, for general use. "The present work may be regarded as a second and condensed edition of my two former works, combined, re-written, and re-cast, so as to suit both practitioners and students." This is the latest, and we have no hesitation in saying that it is the best book on the subject published. The classification followed is that adopted generally, and is in accordance with the new nomenclature of the College of Physicians of London, which will shortly be introduced into all army medical returns. The chapters on general pathology and elementary lessons on etiology, and on general diagnosis, prognosis, the principles of treatment, are all and complete as could possibly be desired. These subjects occupy the first 48 pages, and all the diseases of the skin are mentioned as occurring in them. The diseases peculiar, or at least common, to many parts of India are also dwelt on: the Delhi sore, under which head Dr. Murray's photograph is introduced, and a recent article by sub-assistant surgeon Minas on the Madura (Fungus) foot of India, published last year in the *Indian Medical Gazette,* are among the many noted. A chapter on medicinal rashes, i.e., those caused by the action of certain medicines, is a novel and useful introduction.

The work concludes with an appendix containing, among other notices, notes on the so-called "army itch," on glanders, on mineral waters in skin diseases, &c. A full and complete formulary of 200 selected prescriptions follow, with special directions for "baths." The formulae are classified, and to each is appended the name of the disease in which it is useful.

The glossarial index occupies 16 pages of closely printed matter, and is so arranged as to make all subjects a matter of easy and rapid reference.

We commend this manual to our readers. From the variety of information it contains, it is peculiarly suited to medical officers of all grades in India. It is full of new matter of every description; and it certainly supplies a want hitherto unprovided for.

*Proceedings of the Bengal Branch of the British Medical Association.*

An ordinary monthly meeting of the Bengal Branch of the British Medical Association was held at the theatre of the Medical College on the 11th of August, 1868, at 8½ p.m. Doctor Monim Chivers, President, in the chair.

The proceedings of the last monthly meeting were read and confirmed. Drs. H. Johnston and J. B. Gaffney were duly elected as members of the Branch.

The Secretary announced the receipt of the following presentations from the Government of Bengal.

1. Proceedings of the International Sanitary Conference held at Constantinople in 1866.

2. Report on Leprosy by the Royal College of Physicians.

3. Annual Report of the Lahore Lunatic Asylum for the year 1867.

Dr. Cheverellutby’s paper on tetanus (vide *Indian Annals of Medical Science,* No. 24) was then taken up for discussion.

Dr. Francis, on being requested to state the result of his experience in the treatment of tetanus, observed that he had, on his connection with the Medical College Hospital, used large doses of opium, mostly in the form of googy (smoking), and found it very useful, especially in ischidopathic cases, the majority of which, in his opinion, gave less trouble, as a rule, than the traumatic cases. About three-fourths of his cases