**The Book World of Medicine and Science.**

**Twentieth Century Practice: An International Encyclopedia of Modern Medical Science.** Edited by Thomas L. Stedman, M.D. Volume XVIII. (London: Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. 1889.)

The eighteenth volume of this great work is entirely occupied by two subjects, syphilis and leprosy, its treatment of both of which is complete and authoritative. The main bulk of the volume is devoted to the article by Professor Eduard Lang, of Vienna, on "Acquired Syphilis," and that of Professor Prince A. Morrow, of New York, on "Leprosy."

Sandwiched between these is one of thirty pages or so by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson on "Inherited Syphilis," which, although short, is full. In the 370 pages which he devotes to the subject, Professor Lang gives a remarkably complete and practical description of acquired syphilis in all its various stages and degrees. The descriptive part is encyclopedic rather than clinical, and although every possible mode in which the disease is likely to occur is described, there seems a certain lack of proportion in the amount of importance attributed to its various manifestations.

The strong part of the article is that devoted to treatment, which is very complete and full of useful suggestions. On entering upon this subject Professor Lang says that he wishes to emphasise the fact that the virus which has entered the organism may die out spontaneously, and that syphilis may therefore be cured occasionally without the intervention of drugs. The possibility of this spontaneous recovery taking place has, he says, led some to leave syphilis to its spontaneous development, and thus to reduce treatment to a simple matter of regimen—the "simple treatment." But it is to be noted that many even of the advocates of this "simple treatment" have been forced to return to mercury, because they have found that syphilis by no means always runs its course benignly. Lang says that although he is convinced that, in the great majority of cases, lues runs a comparatively mild course, "we are not justified in a policy of inaction, for the simple reason that in any individual case we have no data upon which to base a positive prognosis or the further course of the disease." On the other hand, an against undergoing a "long course of treatment," "it must be honestly admitted that while we can probably in the great majority of cases not only cause the disappearance of the symptoms but also prevent the transmission of the disease by heredity, yet up to the present time we do not possess any mode of treatment by which we can positively cure this dangerous disease radically and thus absolutely protect the patient against relapses." Nevertheless, for our comfort it is stated that by the rational use of the means at our disposal we are able in numberless cases to effect a perfect cure of syphilis, as shown by the patient and his offspring remaining free from all symptoms, and especially by the former occasionally becoming reinfected. In regard to the use of mercury in the treatment of syphilis Lang places the different methods of administering the habitus of living, and by maintaining the health at the highest standard, lies the best chance of giving relief in cases seen in the early stages. Even by these means, however, cure is very doubtful, for among the 168 Norwegian lepers who have emigrated to the United States there is no record of a single durable cure. In regard to prophylaxis much is said upon both sides regarding the question of segregation, with this outcome that, although the author believes that segregation is the most effective measure that can be employed to limit the spread of leprosy, and thus in some countries is a necessary measure, he does not believe that it can ever result in the entire suppression of the disease. Much historical information is given in this article, and a good deal that will be found interesting in regard to the geographical distribution of leprosy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

**Methuen and Co.**

"A Handbook of Nursing." By M. N. Oxford.

**Longmans, Green, and Co.**

"A Manual of Pathology." Revised throughout by Lewis R. Sutherland, M.B.

**Rehm (Limited).**

"The Pasteurisation and Sterilisation of Milk." By Albert E. Bell, F.I.C., F.G.S.

**State Charities Aid Association of New York.**

Annual Reports of the Association and of the Visiting Committee.

**John Wright Co.**

"Golden Rules of Physiology," by Joseph Cooley, M.D., C.M.; and J. Ackworth Monzie, M.D., C.M. "Golden Rules" Series.

**Burlington House, Cambridge.**

"Matriculation Directory." January, 1900.