

REVIEWS.

Insanity; its causes and prevention. By HENRY PUTNAM STEARNS, M.D.; New York; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1883.

A plain and sensible book, written by a man who has devoted much thought to his subject, and has sufficient practical experience to speak with authority, is always welcome. Dr. Stearns, who is superintendent of the Hartford Retreat, and lecturer on Insanity at Yale, has produced an unpretentious but readable book. It is written as much for the general public as for professional readers, and is well worthy a careful perusal. While admitting the exciting effects of grief, shocks, fever, &c., in the production of insanity, the writer insists upon the pre-existence of the *insane diathesis*, and points out how this diathesis is most commonly produced and how it may best be guarded against. He urges the necessity of reforming our educational system so as to respect the individuality of each pupil, and avoid the evils of routine; for this purpose, he recommends that fewer pupils be entrusted to each teacher. He attaches considerable importance to industrial education, and strikes a sound note in calling attention to the necessity of careful *home training*. Obedience is the great lesson to be learned at home. The child who does not learn at home to submit to domestic regulations, is very apt never to learn obedience to the laws of the land; and the passionate self-willed child is apt to exhibit in after life so-called emotional insanity or irresistible impulse. Many other important subjects are discussed, such as heredity and marriage, the effects of alcohol and tobacco, the importance of sleep and recreation, etc.

Sore Throat; its nature, varieties and treatment. By PROSSER JAMES, M.D. Fourth edition, enlarged. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co.

Few writers upon the Laryngoscope are better known than Prosser James. In 1860, the first edition of this book was published; it was then the first text book on the Laryngoscope in the English language. Since then it has gone through several editions, and appears now thoroughly revised as one of Blakiston's Handbook Series. It is well got up, and its cheapness brings it within the reach of all.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.
QUININE PILLS.

The publication in a Medical Journal, some time ago, of an article based on analysis of quinine pills of well-known brands, showing shortage, as might be expected, caused much commotion amongst the manufacturers concerned, and the Pharmaceutical Journals have been commenting on the subject ever since. At first the manufacturers contented themselves with raising objections to the unknown analyst, whose name did not appear, and to the medical editor. They also assumed that their reputations would sustain them against one assault. Subsequently an analyst, whom the manufacturers could not well attack, Diehl, of Kentucky, published his results, and these placed the pill-men in a worse position than before. Special pleading is now in order, the last effort we have seen, in this direction, being by Lloyd, of Cincinnati, in a paper read before the Indiana State Pharmaceutical Association, occupying five columns in N. Y. Druggist Circular for August. In it he elaborately argues that deficiency may be accounted for by the destruction of the quinine in the pill, by time and the complex excipients used in the mass, thus giving away the pill business badly.

It would seem that the pill-men ought to have a better defence than this, the amusing thing now is, that the manufacturers have been in the habit constantly of publishing analyses, in some cases by independent and competent chemists, showing the pills to be all right, and frequently, even, with a slight excess of the costly ingredient. As the analytical processes of pharmaceutical chemistry, are beyond the scope of the general practitioner, the latter will probably come to some such conclusions as the following, as the result of all this discussion, and his patients will be no sufferers thereby.

To avoid all ready-made pills, whether round, square or flat. To exhibit quinine in powder or simple solution freshly made. If the pill form is decided on; to prescribe the quantity desired in the pill and leave the manipulation and excipients to some dispensing chemist, in whom he has confidence, only stipulating that the mass be freshly made each time.

Yours, etc.,

T. D. REED, M.D.

Montreal, 29th August, 1883.

BIRTH.

At Emileville, St. Pie, on the 28th July, the wife of Dr. E. A. Duclos of a son.