

ers have done their part well, and the able supervision of the Editor has left nothing to be desired.

Modern Therapeutics of the Diseases of Children, with Observations on the Hygiene of Infancy.

By JOSEPH F. EDWARDS, M.D. Philadelphia; D. G. Brinton, 1885.

This is the fourth of Dr. Brinton's "Modern Therapeutics" Series, and is a companion volume to Naphey's Surgical Therapeutics and Atkinson's Medical Therapeutics, which have already run through seven or eight editions. Culled chiefly from periodical literature and monographs, these books present in convenient form the treatments of representative men at home and abroad; being therefore almost encyclopædic in character, they are valuable as works of reference to those who have not access to a large library.

The Influence of Sea-Voyaging upon the Genito-Uterine Functions. By J. A. IRWIN, M.A., M.D., New York: Trow's Printing Co., 1885.

We have received from Dr. Irwin the advanced sheets of his essay read before the Co. Med. Society of New York at its last meeting. Coming most appropriately at the opening of the summer tourist season, it is well worth careful perusal. An ocean voyage is often prescribed empirically for the relief of tedious or obscure uterine troubles, with a sort of vague hope that change of scene and air may somehow prove beneficial; but the experiment is frequently unsuccessful, and the patient returns with symptoms unimproved, sometimes aggravated. Such disappointments could be easily avoided by carefully studying the therapeutic effects of sea-voyaging, and recommending it only in suitable cases.

While ship-surgeon on several first class passenger lines, a large number of female passengers have come under his care. That he has utilised his opportunities for observation, may be gathered from the fact that he has collected the records of 104 pregnancies, 11 parturitions, 3 miscarriages and 451 menstruations or missed periods among women whose functions were usually normal.

Though recognising physical and atmospheric influences, he nevertheless attributes the chief effects of a sea-voyage to the ship's motion. His theory of seasickness (*Œkinetia*), first published in the *Lancet* in 1881, is well known and now pretty generally adopted. It may be summarized as follows:

"The ordinary form of seasickness, that is the

form caused by the easy gyrations of a large ocean steamer is essentially a disturbance of equilibration.

The initial lesion takes place within the semicircular canals of the internal ear, where the endolymph and otoliths, following the irregular movements of the vessel convey to the sensorium erroneous impressions of the position of the head in space; this soon results in dizziness, which is followed in due course by nausea and vomiting; and even when later, as is usual in tedious cases other parts of the organisation become involved, a hyperæmia of the parts concerned in equilibration remains a main factor in the general synæresis of nervous and functional derangement. In fact for practical purposes, seasickness may be regarded as a mild, transitory, semiphysiological prototype of the noncochlear part of Ménière's disease."

He finds the effect of sea-voyaging upon the menstrual functions to be highly stimulating, resulting in disturbance of periodicity and duration, as well as increase in quantity and degree of discomfort. In pregnant women abortion and premature labor are apt to be induced; in the non-pregnant the symptoms most commonly noticed are dysmenorrhœa, menorrhagia, a premature recurrence of the flow, and a more or less erotic tendency.

As a therapeutic agent, Dr. Irwin ranks sea-voyaging as a potent *emmenagogue*, with well marked tonic, alterative and sedative effects. He recommends it especially in cases of chloro-anæmia, amenorrhœa with deficient tone, retarded sexual maturity, certain forms of leucorrhœa uterine asthenia and sterility, and "especially in those delicate gawky over-schooled girls, in whom abeyance of uterine function is often among the first warnings of approaching phthisis."

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Disinfection and Disinfectants—Preliminary Report of the American Public Health Association.

Many Drugs; Few Remedies. Geo. T. Welch, M.D.

Eulogy on the Life and Character of Lumsford Pitts Yandill. By J. A. Ochterlony, A.M., M.D.

Idiopathic Anæmia. By J. H. Musser, M.D.

Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick.