

century after Christ, Aretæus mentions it, and states that the tonsils are covered with "quodam concreto humore albo," which spread over the gums. He alludes to the discovery made by Hueter and himself simultaneously, that the diphtheritic membrane and even the blood contained in great numbers vegetable organisms or bacteria, to which he gives the name micrococci, and these he believes are the essential elements of diphtheritic contagion. He believes that the disease commences as a local disease and afterwards develops into a general one, until by blood poisoning it renders the organism incapable of life. We will not attempt to even give a synopsis of the treatment (save to allude to the heroic doses of quinine, ten to fifteen grains, three to four times a day, which he uses) for it cannot in any way be abbreviated, so thoroughly has the author joined it. This paper and the first one on typhoid fever are really the best in the book. They will, moreover, be the more eagerly perused, for they describe diseases which are commonly met with.

Volume II., which has more recently reached us, is also upon acute infectious diseases, and contains papers on the following subjects:—Varicella—Measles—Rubeola—Scarlet Fever—Small-pox—Erysipelas—Miliary Fever—Dengue—Influenza—Hay Fever—Malarial Fevers—Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. As can be imagined from the above table of contents Volume II. is, taking it all in all, much more valuable to the practicing physician than is Volume I., as it contains papers on a class of diseases which are of very common occurrence. The most of the articles are well written, although one or two seem to us not to be quite up to the mark. The essay on scarlet fever is a really good exposition of the disease, and contains much of practical value in its treatment. The removal from the patients room of all useless articles of furniture, such as book cases, cupboards, curtains, carpets, &c., is strongly advocated, as is also an abundant and constant supply of fresh air. To prevent the dissemination of the dusty particles of the infecting epidermic scales, particularly during the period of desquamation, it is recommended that the body (including the head) should be rubbed twice daily with olive oil. Particular attention is directed to the fact that under no circumstances should the convalescent from scarlet fever be allowed to mix with the rest of the family till the desqua-

mation is complete. We feel the importance of this, and yet we know how very difficult, if not utterly impossible, it is in the great majority of cases to have this rule carried out. On the question of hydro-therapeutics, in this disease, the author of this paper speaks strongly, and says that the old prejudice against baths, based on the fear that the patient may thereby take cold, must be laid aside. He feels convinced that since he has ordered a daily bath the nephritis has been less frequent and less severe. During the period of great fever, water which has been gradually cooled down is recommended, while, as the fever diminishes, the temperature should be gradually increased, and during the period of convalescence it should be warm. In mild scarlet-fever, when the patient is most likely to be very sensitive to cold, he suggests that only warm baths should be employed. As a dietetic article we notice that frozen beef tea is recommended, and we can very readily imagine that this method of giving nourishment in a frozen state would be exceedingly agreeable to the patient. Space forbids our saying more. We think that while many of the ideas of German authors should be received with considerable caution, yet a great mass of very valuable information may be gathered from the two volumes which have been already issued, and if subsequent numbers even show an equal character, we predict for this Cyclopædia a very great financial success to its publishers. It is to consist of fifteen volumes, and they are to be issued at intervals of three months. The work can only be had by subscription, and is not, we understand, for sale at any book store in the Dominion or United States. The cost of the volumes as received by us (and it is the cheapest style issued) is five dollars, but with finer binding it costs a somewhat higher rate. We very cordially, indeed strongly, recommend it to our readers. As an evidence of the value placed upon it by our Montreal physicians, we may state that there are about sixty of them who have subscribed for it. It is a splendid work for reference, and will, we are confident, amply repay the outlay.

BIRTH.

In Montreal on the 21st April the wife of R. Palmer Howard, M.D., of a daughter.

DIED.

At Dickinson's Landing, Ont., on the 7th April, William H. Wagner, M.D., aged 61 years.