The Physician's Library.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A Manual of Practical Hygiene for Students, Physicians and Medical Officers. By CHARLES HARRINGTON, M.D., Assistant Professor of Hygiene in the Medical School of Harvard University. Illustrated with twelve plates and one hundred and five engravings. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co. 1901.

The author says in the preface that his object in preparing this work has been "to provide a students' text-book which should cover the most important topics included in the wide domain of hygiene and be useful in the laboratory and as a reference book for practitioners and health officers." A review of his opinions on the causation of typhoid fever will therefore be interesting, both to medical student and practitioner. The evidence establishing that typhoid fever is a water-borne disease is well put, examples being given from America, viz., the Plymouth (Pa.) epidemic in 1885 and the epidemic at Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1893-94. The latter instance is suggestive to Torontonians, Ashland being situated on an arm of Lake Superior, Chequamegon Bay, and the fever which prevailed there being considered as due to sewage pollution of the town water supply. "An action at law was brought by the widow of one of the victims. In evidence it was shown that he lived continuously in Ashland and drank no water other than that supplied by the water company; that previous to his seizure the disease had prevailed in the eity, and that the discharge from the antecedent cases had passed into the waters of the bay by way of the city sewers. The court found for the plaintiff in the sum of \$5,000."

The author quotes with approval a paraphrase of a familiar quotation, "Show me a city's statistics of typhoid fever and I will tell you the character of its water supply." He also exhibits a table taken from John W. Hill's work, "The Purification of Public Water Supplies. New York. 1898." Knowing what every citizen of Toronto knows of the sources of our water supply, we are not surprised to learn that the death-rate of Toronto for typhoid fever for 100,000 porulation is, for the year 1896, 28.5. For purposes of comparison we append the following death-rate from typhoid fever per 100,000 population: London, Eng., 14; Brooklyn, N.Y., 15; Buffalo, N.Y., 20; Philadelphia, Pa., 34.

The influence of a common municipal water supply, instead of that derived from wells, in lowering the death-rate from typhoid fever is described. At the same time statistics are given to prove that if a public water supply is "not protected from avoidable pollution (town sewage), the typhoid rate in that town keeps high." In reference to typhoid fever conveyed by milk, it is shown that the Eberth bacilli can retain their vitality in milk and even in sour milk. Yet there is this difference, that in buttermilk there was always a diminution in the number of the pathogenic organisms, and "this was the more marked and sometimes very rapid with increasing temperatures."

The bugaboo of typhoid fever from sewer air is shown to be foundationless. Its transmission by dust is denied on the authority of Germano and Buchner, though the bacilli may be introduced into the system through contact with the fingers, food (oysters), or eating utensils.