

thought that they may occasionally have helped to propagate contagious diseases, especially when one remembers the important parts played by mosquitoes and bed-bugs in propagating malarial fevers, and by rats in extending the contagion of plague.

A considerable change in surgical practice is the use of sponges made of absorbent cotton, enclosed in gauze, and rendered aseptic by boiling, in place of the time-honored surgical sponges. Even the sponge-tent is no longer looked on with favor.

It makes one smile to think, that formerly burnt sponge was used in order to obtain the therapeutic effects of iodine in diseases such as goitre and scrofula. Sponges were heated in closed vessels until they assumed a brown tint, the heating being done carefully so as not to volatilize the contained iodine.

The article on the sperm whale is well written and beautifully illustrated.

The same remark applies to the article on cantharides, the illustrations by Prieur and Dubois, Puteaux, being faithful reproductions of the natural insect.

The article on the beaver will be interesting to Canadians—Beaver in English, in Latin *Fiber*, in German *Biber*, in old French *Bièvre*: hence the name of the stream which runs through the southern part of Paris, the banks of which were formerly inhabited by beavers. Therapeutically, however, castoreum has ceased to be of any interest, and it has been omitted in the last two editions of the British Pharmacopœia (1885 and 1898). Students who wish to have accurate ideas of the anatomical structure of organs, or parts of the animal structure mentioned in works on materia medica, viz., spermaceti, ol. morrhuae, moschus, etc., would do well to procure this book. It ought to be translated into English. J. J. C.

*Operative Surgery.* By JOSEPH D. BRYANT, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, Operative and Clinical, University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, etc., etc. Vol. II. Operations on Mouth, Nose, and Esophagus; the Viscera connected with the Peritoneum, the Thorax and Neck, Scrotum and Penis, and miscellaneous operations. With 827 illustrations, of which 40 are colored. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Canadian agents: The George N. Morang Co., Limited, Toronto.

Chapter XIII. of Volume II. is devoted to operations on the mouth, pharynx, nose and esophagus and should prove invaluable not only to the specialist, but also to the general surgeon who dabbles in work of this kind.

The next chapter, devoted to operations on viscera connected with the peritoneum, is comprehensive, carefully written, and up-to-date. It covers abdominal surgery in all its branches, and will prove instructive reading to anyone engaged in this line of work.

Operations on the anus and rectum are dealt with in chapter XV. In this chapter we are pleased to notice a full description