

Physician's Library.

The International Medical Annual and Practitioners' Index, 1898. New York: E. B. TREAT & CO., 241-243 West 23rd St. Chicago: 199 Clark St. Price, \$3.00.

This sixteenth volume of this handy annual will be found to be second to none of any of the annuals published. Besides the review of current medical literature, one finds a number of excellent original articles. The atlas by Shallock, on "Bacteria Pathogenic in Man," is of special interest. Such well-known authorities as Allingham, E. H. and W. Fenwick, T. C. Fox, Hammond, Robt. Jones, More, Maddens, Parvin, Priestly, Robson, Rockwell, Saunby, Gilman Thomson, and number of others equally noted, are contributors to the volume. We have derived much pleasure and instruction from perusing the contents of this work and feel that every practitioner should have a copy in their library.

Schenk's Theory: The Determination of Sex. Akron, Ohio: The Werner Company, Publishers. Price, \$1.50.

As announced by an Associated Press despatch from Vienna several days ago, the Werner Company has secured the copyright privileges of Prof. Schenk's book on the "Determination of Sex," both in the United States and England. The work has been vigorously pushed and is now ready for distribution. Dr. Leopold Schenk, the author, is a professor at the Imperial and Royal University and director of the Embryological Institute in Vienna. He has devoted twenty years to the investigation of the subject, predetermination of sex, and has verified his theories again and again by painstaking and exhaustive experiments. The translation has been supervised by Dr. MacKellar, the well-known English medical

literary authority. In view of the fact, says no less an authority than the *British Medical Journal*, that Prof. Schenk's conclusions as to the power of artificially determining the sex of offspring have served as a nine-days' wonder, it seems advisable to lay before our readers (the medical profession in England, Australia and India) a plain statement of his arguments. His treatise falls into three parts—a summary of the writings of his predecessors on the same subject, an account of his own researches and deductions, and finally a description of the method of treatment he has devised with illustrative cases. "My discovery," explains Dr. Schenk, "is based upon the scientific fact that the blood of a grown-up man contains five million blood corpuscles, the bearers of life-giving and nourishing oxygen, whilst the blood of a grown-up woman only contains four million. This difference is the basis of the difference of sex, of the different moral and physical working powers in man and woman. This portion is observable in the slightest quantity of blood from a man or a woman. All my efforts are directed toward producing the right number of blood corpuscles required by the male embryo. I have succeeded in attaining this effect by suitable nourishment of the woman." It is a well-known fact that for ages the secret of predetermining sex has eluded the grasp of science; that from remotest antiquity this question has engaged the attention of wise men and seems to no purpose. In view of the countless idle theories that have been advanced, many of which have seemed plausible and have had a temporary following only to prove delusive and without foundation, Dr. Schenk's discovery might be treated skeptically, but that it comes to us on the authority of one of the leading medical lights of Europe;