

cases because many of them eventually die from heart failure, but might not even this condition be averted by supplying the heart with oxygenated blood? The heart fails partly because it is no longer able to pump blood through obstructed blood-vessels, but partly because it is deprived of oxygen which is essential to the repair of muscular tissues. But there is another possible manner in which inhalations of oxygen may prove not only palliative but actually curative. One by one nearly all the acute diseases have been proved to be due to the growth of bacteria in the blood. On the other hand bacteria luxuriate in stagnant and presumably unoxygenated air. May it not be possible that the administration of oxygen by inhalation might put a stop to the reproduction of micro-organisms, to the presence of which the fever is due? At any rate the beneficial effects of inhalations of oxygen in disorders of respiration have been amply demonstrated to warrant our adopting it more generally in practice while on the other hand a little larger demand for it by general practitioners would soon be followed by greater facilities for a more abundant supply. One of the leading druggists of the city has expressed his willingness to furnish it when required.

BOOK NOTICES.

ARE INEBRIATES CURABLE? By T. D. Crothers, M.D., Hartford, Conn., Superintendent Walnut Lodge Hospital, Hartford, Conn. Read before the English Society for the Study of Inebriety. London, Jan. 24th, 1892.

REACTION OF THE AMIDE-GROUP UPON THE WASTING ANIMAL ECONOMY. By Professors Samuel G. Dixon, M. D., and W. S. Zull, M. D., D. V. S., Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Reprinted from *The Times and Register*, September 26, October 17, 1891, and February 6, 1892. Philadelphia: The American Medical Press Co., Ltd., 1891.

OBSTETRIC PROBLEMS. Being an inquiry into the nature of the forces determining head presentation, internal rotation, and also the development of the amnion. By D. T. Smith, M. D., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Louisville; Author of "The Philosophy of Memory;" "The Gathering of the Waters;" "The Philosophy of Emphasis," etc. With Illustrations. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1892.

THE RETROSPECT OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY. Being a half-yearly journal containing a retrospective view of every discovery and practical improvement in the medical sciences, edited by James Braithwaite, M. D., Lond., Obstetric Physician to the Leeds General Infirmary; Late Lecturer on Diseases of Women and Children, Leeds School of Medicine; Fellow and Late Vice-President of the Obstetrical Society of London; Corresponding Fellow of the Gynecological Society of Boston, U.S. Volume CIV, January, 1892. Uniform American Edition. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

THE APRIL (1892) NUMBER OF THE ALIENIST AND NEUROLOGIST. Contains: "Surgical Cure of Mental Maladies"—Résumé, by Dr. Guiseppe Seppilli, Italy; "Some Principles Involved in the Nature and Treatment of Inebriety," by T. W. Wright, M. D., Bellefontaine, Ohio; "Art in the Insane," by J. G. Kiernan, M. D., Chicago, Ill.; "Drug Habituation," by Lucius W. Baker, M. D., Baldwinville, Mass.; "Tumor of the Cerebellum," by George J. Preston, M. D., Baltimore; "The Epidemic Inflammatory Neurosis; or Neurotic Influenza," by C.H. Hughes, M.D., St. Louis. "Pessimism in its Relation to Suicide," by Wm. W. Ireland, M. D., Scotland; "Classification of Insanity," by C.G. Chaddock, Traverse City, Mich.; "Report of a Case of Transitory Frenzy," by Theo. Diller, M. D., Pittsburgh; "Intermittent Paralysis," by J. Bremer, M. D., St. Louis. Besides the usual Selections, Editorials, Hospital Notes, Reviews etc. C. H. Hughes, M. D., Editor, 500 N. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis. Subscription: \$5.00 per Annum; Single Copies, \$1.50.

SYPHILIS IN ANCIENT AND PRE-HISTORIC TIMES. By Dr. F. Buret, Paris, France, in three volumes. Translated from the French with notes by A. H. Ohmann-Dumesnil, M. D., Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology in the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. Published by F. A. Davis, Philadelphia. Volume I.

This is No. 12 in the Physicians' and Students' Ready-Reference Series. It professes to be an exhaustive treatise both historical and medical concerning a disease which has had a strange, tragic interest for students in modern times. In this first volume the author takes us through all sacred and profane history; and he seems to justify his contention that in prehistoric as well as in ancient times the indubitable traces of syphilis are to be found. He explodes the idea that the disease first appeared in Europe at the siege of Naples in 1494; and he exploits the theory that it originated in the cradle of the human race in the very earliest times, and that with the spread of the Aryans westward it gradually overran the ancient world. He finds it among the Chinese 5000 years ago, and among the Egyptians 4000 years ago. He finds in Hebrew history and literature abundant evidence of its existence and also of its terrible ravages among the people of Jehovah. He finds it necessary to take the reader through the veriest moral filth in the Latin Satirical poets of the Post-Augustan era to exhibit syphilis at its worst in Rome under the Cæsars. Though the translation might have been better the book will be found both valuable as a history and suggestive as a treatise on syphilis and its treatment. The author adheres very closely to the idea that only one treatment is available for