

ports on the health of the British Navy do not entirely accord with the views of Dr. Logan in his review of the medical aspects of the Pacific coast of South America. Compared with the climate of the British and American (N) ports, it appears, drawing conclusions according to prevalent hypothesis and accepted dogmata, to have almost everything against it. Most of it is within the tropics. A great portion of its shores is still in a state of nature: all of it is teeming with vegetable and animal productions growing or decomposing rapidly. Rain falls in torrents at intervals in many places, and evaporation, atmospheric heat being intense, proceeds rapidly. High winds are rare, calms are common. Yet with all these apparent elements of disease and destruction, the mortality of the squadrons employed there from 1830 to 1836 was less than in the force employed in England during the same period. Compared with other tropical positions, particularly the coast of Africa and the West Indies, nothing appears in its favor; compared with the latter, something in the natural condition of the soil and its superabundant products appears against it, yet its mortality is not one-third part so great. These things and others of similar import, show the imperfect knowledge on the subject of climate as affecting health, and that much must be unlearned as well as learned, before anything deserving the name of knowledge shall be obtained on this very interesting subject. Dr. J. Wilson's work of 260 pages includes remarks on outfit, drainage, clothing, food, arrangement of meals, purifying and preserving water, superiority of tea, coffee and other drinks, over alcohol; zoology and botany of Mexico and the West Indies; ventilation, special hygiene, and other subjects, the nature and multifarious character of which preclude in our short space anything approaching to an analytical review. We would recommend the work to such of our new graduates as may contemplate spending a few years as surgeons to vessels.

HEALTH AND HOW TO PROMOTE IT, by Richard McSherry, M.D. New York: Appleton & Co. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

HEALTH PRIMERS. No. 1, Exercise and Training; No. 2, Alcohol; No. 3, The House and its Surroundings; No. 4, Premature Death, its Promotion or Prevention. Reprinted by D. Appleton & Co., New York. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

Dr. McSherry's work, and the Health Primers

sent to us for notice should, if sufficiently circulated and read, suffice for the enforcement of strict hygienic rules. That the greater number of the ailments to which mankind are subject are entailed upon them by their ignorance, carelessness, and apathy, is an observation familiar to every reflecting practitioner of medicine. How large a proportion of the patients whom he daily visits might, by the simplest hygienic precautions, have altogether avoided the maladies they are suffering under, or have rendered their duration less prolonged, and their character less grave. If there is one axiom more indisputable than another in medical experience, it is that where filth and dirt prevail, that where the neglected habitations of a crowded and squalid population exist, there will be especially found the ravages of epidemic disease to prevail. This is moreover no barren fact, for the position that these physical conditions do generate or propagate epidemic disease, is scarcely less easy of demonstration than that they are for the most part removable. The object of the works now under review is to point out the injurious operation of these circumstances, and the most feasible plans for removing them, and counteracting their influence on the well-being of society.

M. Mallet and Dr. Chadwick bear testimony that we should not estimate the strength of a people by its mere numerical condition, that it does not depend on the absolute number of its population, but on the relative number of those who are of the age and strength for labour. It is proved that the real and productive value of the population of Geneva has increased in a much greater ratio than the increase in its absolute numbers. The absolute number has only doubled in three centuries, but the value of the population has more than doubled upon the purely numerical increase of the population. In other words a population of 27,000 in which the probability of life is 40 years for each individual is more than twice as strong for the purposes of production as a population of 27,000 in which the probability or value of life is only 20 years for each individual. Dr. McSherry's work consists of eight chapters:—Hygiene the better part of medicine; four divisions of human life—adult, mature and declining age; race, temperaments, idiosyncrasies, inheritance, habits, constitution; air we breathe, ozone, malaria, animal emanations, water, clothing, exercise, food, alcohol—use and abuse, &c., &c.