

chlorate of morphia fifteen grains. Dissolve the morphia in the collodion. Spread with a camel's hair pencil some of this solution over the painful part and cover with oil silk. The effect is said to be most satisfactory.

REVIEWS.

Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine. Edited by DR. VON. ZIEMSEN, Professor of Clinical Medicine in Munich, Bavaria. Volumes I and II, Acute Infectious Diseases. New York, William Wood & Co.

These two volumes, kindly sent us by the American publishers, have been in our possession for some time, and would have been noticed at an earlier date had we not desired to have an opportunity of examining them thoroughly before pronouncing an opinion. This we have been enabled to do. The work we may premise is issued by Messrs. Wood & Co., of New York, the translation of the various articles from the German, being made by Medical men residing in various portions of the United States, and although none of their names are familiar to us, we feel thoroughly satisfied that the work has been well done. All the articles read smoothly, a matter sometimes difficult of accomplishment when transcribing into a language so precise and dogmatical, as is our English tongue. Volume I. consists of some seven hundred pages, and contains papers on the following diseases:—Typhoid Fever—Relapsing Fever—Typhus Fever—Cholera—the Plague—Yellow Fever—Dysentery—Epidemic Diphtheria. The first paper on typhoid fever is from the pen of Liebermeister, a physician of considerable German experience, who was at one time assistant to Niemeyer. Its length is considerable, occupying fully two hundred pages. As to the question of the contagiousness of the disease, he says, "from long experience I do not hesitate to assert that the opinion that typhoid fever can be purely contagious, and can be transmitted directly from person to person, is not founded on actual observation. Such an opinion is only a relic of the pastime." He, however, classes it as a miasmatic contagious disease, and believes most thoroughly that every epidemic and every isolated case of typhoid fever is due *alone* to the specific poison of typhoid fever. He says, "If the specific poison is absent, every other evil influence may act on the population without

producing typhoid fever. No matter how well a field may be manured, wheat will not grow unless wheat be sown. Besides the presence of the poison, many other conditions are necessary to produce typhoid fever * * * they must find a favourable soil for their reception and growth * * * a *local disposition* for the production of the disease, and an *individual disposition* for its development." At page 161, in speaking of the complications which are met with in the disease, we notice that the trifacial nerve is mentioned as being liable to injury on incision being made to evacuate pus when the parotid gland is involved. This is evidently an error, the facial or portia dura being the only nerve likely to be so injured, as it passes through the gland, and as this is the motor nerve, paralysis would of course follow its section. When entering upon the treatment of a case Dr. Liebermeister advises much attention being shown to disinfect the dejections. The plan he follows is to use a porcelain bed-pan, and to have the bottom of it strewed with finely powdered sulphate of iron before it is used; immediately after the dejections have been passed, to pour upon them crude muriatic acid. The only remedy which we notice he refers to, and which is not generally mentioned in text books or generally used in this city, is iodine. This he used in about two hundred cases, and although it did not exert any specific effect in changing the course of disease, yet the mortality in his opinion was lessened. He also speaks favourably of calomel, at first in ten grain doses and then in $7\frac{1}{2}$ grain doses—given early in the disease, and repeated at least three times in the twenty-four hours. The diarrhœa, at first increased, seemed to be afterwards lessened by this drug, and there was lowering of the temperature. Upon the subject of dietetic treatment but little is said; but water as much as would be taken in health is allowed, while milk is also strongly advised, not in its pure state, but diluted with water. We confess the subject of treatment is not as full as we should have wished.

We have not space to notice the other articles, but pass on to notice very briefly the article on diphtheria by Oertel. He claims the disease to be one of the oldest epidemic diseases of the human race, being known even to Homer and Hippocrates under the name of the *Malum Egyptiacum*. At the close of the first