

*The Conjunctiva in Health and Disease.* Being a record of some research work by N. BISHOP HANNAN, M.A., M.B. (Cantab.), F.R.C.S. Eng., Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Belgrave Hospital for Children. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox. 1905. 10s. 6d. net.

At this juncture, when trachoma is beginning to become frequent in Ontario, a work on diseases of the conjunctiva is most opportune. Trachoma, he regards as probably the result of an inoculation of the conjunctiva with the M. gonorrhea of an attenuated virulence. As for operative treatment he prefers gentle scraping with a sharp spoon, and regards most of the operative procedures as being worse than the disease; of medicinal applications he gives the palm to argent. nit., blue stone, and zinc chloride. A perusal of this chapter alone reveals the candor and honesty of the author, for he records failure even more fully than success. Altogether this is a most interesting work, in which scientific theories are put through the crucible of clinical experiment.

J. M.

*Superstition in Medicine.* By PROF. DR. HUGO MAGUNS. Authorized translation from the German. Edited by Dr. JULIUS L. SALINGER, late Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, Physician to the Philadelphia General Hospital. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company. 1905.

As the name implies, this is a description, and a very minute description, too, of the various errors that our forefathers fell into during the last 2,000 years, by mixing the natural and supernatural in medicine. Some of the cures are very interesting, but one cannot help being struck by the similarity which exists between these occurrences when both the operator and the patient "believed," and the same thing done to-day when the patient believes but the "fakir" knows the trick.

The similarity goes even further, as it would appear that as early as the third century Before Christ, one Hermon, of Thasos, recovered his sight by sleeping in the Epidaurian Temple of Esculapius, and went away without paying a fee—2,500 years later Mummolus slept in St. Andrew's Church at Pateras, and at midnight passed an "enormous calculus" and was cured. The financial part of this matter is not described.

The writer seems impressed with the belief in what he calls the "*Physico-Mechanical Theory of Life*," and is grieved "that as medical knowledge in its entirety was contained in the cloisters of the middle ages" the "priesthood never seriously attempted to promote its enlightenment." In fact Christianity is blamed