

NOTES ON NEW BOOKS AND CURRENT LITERATURE.

patient to another. Of all the organisms with which they were acquainted, it was the least exacting in its cultural requirements. A German investigator of the highest scientific reputation, who was sent to investigate an epidemic, and examined the wells of the locality, found it, not in the well water, but abundantly in the soil in the neighbourhood of the well.

APPLES are now recommended in dipsomania. Dr. Triplett (in *Med. Bull.*) calls the attention of the profession to the fact that he first noticed that those who were habitual drinkers of alcoholic liquors very seldom ate apples. He found that a diet composed largely of good, ripe apples, of the tartish variety, greatly diminished the desire for the accustomed stimulant. He insists when treating dipsomaniacs, that apples shall be taken with meals and between the meal hours, and finds that where it is kept up the desire for alcoholic stimulants soon becomes nil. He has used strychnine and other vaunted remedies, but has had more satisfaction, and much more brilliant results, from the apple diet than from any remedy in the materia medica.

THE examination of Vichy water in bottles, commenced in Germany by Reindl and in America by Ninges, has given alarming results, nearly all the bottled mineral waters having been found to be charged with germs (*Progress Med.*—*N. Y. Med. Times*). Temperature, pipes, pumps, &c., are elements of much influence on the number of germs in the bottled waters. It is recommended to modify the methods of bottling, to subject them to steaming, as well as the corks, just before the introduction of the water.

THE French medical journals report another instance in which diphtheria appears to have been transmitted from pigeons to man. One of these birds died and a veterinary surgeon found, *post-mortem*, that diphtheria had been the cause of death. From this bird, its owner, his daughter and a child were infected.

IN THE University of Coimbra, Portugal, (*N. Y. Med. Times*) fourteen years are now required to obtain the degree of M. D., six being spent in obtaining the ordinary education, three in a preliminary scientific course and five in purely medical studies. Now the students complain because the final examination is conducted in Greek.

NO KISSING ever occurs in Japan except in the marital embrace, not even between a mother and child, nor shaking of hands in salutation. If one were to offer a kiss to a Japanese maiden she would probably think she were going to be bitten!

A NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY, by George M. Gould, A. B., M. D., (Oph. Surg. Phila. Hospital, Clin. Chief Oph. Dept. German Hosp. &c.) recently issued by F. Blackiston, Son & Co., of Philadelphia, contains several thousands of new words, created during the past ten years—a period rich in such coinages, not found we believe in any similar work. It is intended to answer the needs of the busy practitioner and student, by its compactness, logical arrangement, conciseness, and illumination of obsolete and useless words, &c. It well fulfils its design, and is spoken highly of by our most noted physicians. It contains tables of abbreviations of the principal arteries and bacilli, of ganglia, leucomaines, micrococci, etc., the comparison of thermometers, the most used weights and measures of the world, the mineral springs of the United States, vital statistics of different countries, duration of life, effects of density of population, and a great deal of other very useful information.

FROM MANGER TO THRONE, or the "Life of Christ" and "Palestine and its People," by the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage is a large handsome volume. Some idea of what it contains and how it was prepared may be obtained from the following extract from its preface: "In my American home, on the Atlantic, on Mediterranean, on camel's back, on mule's back, on horseback, under chandelier, by dim candle in tent, on Lake Galilee, in convent, at Bethel where Jacob's pillow was stuffed with dreams, and the angels of the ladder landed; at the brook Elah, from which little David picked up the ammunition of five smooth stones, four more than were needed for crushing like an egg-shell the skull of Goliath; in the valley of Ajalon, over which, at Joshua's command, Astronomy halted; on the plain of Esdraelon, the battlefield of ages, its long red flowers suggestive of the blood dashed to the bits of the horses' bridles; amid the shattered masonry of Jerico, in Jerusalem that overshadows all other cities in reminiscence; at Cana, where plain water became festal beverage; on Calvary, whose aslant and ruptured rocks still show the effects of the earthquake at the mounds that purchased the world's rescue; and with my hand mitted from the storm, wet from the Jordan, or bared to the sun, this book has been written." It is a life of Christ from an entirely new standpoint, and a very interesting history of a country and people who occupy a prominent place in the