

and interesting event," the appearance of Inter-mittent Fever in Mass., has been noted about the same time that it was much increased with us. Excessive rise and fall of bodies of water is put down as the cause; and drainage the remedy. The paper is interesting as giving a *resumé* of the various theories of the nature and causation of the disease.

School-house sanitation (air, drainage, and water supply), comes in for a large amount of attention, badly needed.

A very good suggestion, and one much needed by us, is added: that every town should have lithograph plans on which year after year the areas of certain diseases can be jotted down.

A novel feature in the volume is a large percentage dial, on which are indicated the various percentages of "sickness," "surroundings," "garbage," "air space," "occupation," "number," "nationality," "sewerage," "drainage," "water," "privies," "cellars." Showing all in a glance in one large picture.

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*Medical Electricity: A Practical Treatise on the Applications of Electricity to Medicine and Surgery.* By ROBERTS BARTHOLOW, A.M., M.D., LL.D. With 96 illustrations. Philadelphia: H. C. Lea's, Son & Co.

Dr. Bartholow, so successful and renowned as a practitioner of the healing art, seems equally successful as a maker of books for the guidance and help of his fellow labourers. Those who had formed high expectations from his "Therapeutics and Materia Medica," his "Practice of Medicine," his "Cartwright Lectures," and his many contributions to periodical medical literature will not be disappointed in perusing his work on Medical Electricity. Indeed his fame as a therapist, both experimental and practical, could scarcely have been acquired in the absence of the knowledge and the qualities this book displays. We have, however, always held that electricity as an element of the materia medica and a therapeutic agent should be treated of in books pertaining to those subjects, and are, therefore, of opinion that Dr. Bartholow would have done, if not wisely, at

least well to have avoided the multiplication of books by appending the present work to the fruit of his labours first above mentioned. This work of some 250 pages is divided into six parts treating respectively of electro-physics, electro-physiology, electro-diagnosis, electro-therapeutics, electricity in surgery, and thermo-electricity. It is sufficiently scientific for the general reader and practitioner, enabling him to understand the principles of the generation of the electric force, the construction and proper handling and care of batteries; and it is eminently practical in clearly setting forth the characteristics and utility of the Galvanic, Faradic, and Franklinic forms, together with the times and modes of their respective applications. It is doubtless true, as Wilks some years ago expressed it, that, the last named form of generation has been too readily superseded by the Galvanic and Faradic currents, and that frictional or static electricity has unaccountably fallen into a desuetude at once premature and undeserved. Queen's Toepler Holtz's electrical machine is stated to be "both highly efficient and certain in operation," and we accordingly hope to see the employment of frictional electricity once more revived. A discovery has been made by our author, or by Morton of New York, we know not which, whereby the Holtz machine can be used as a substitute for faradic electricity, an intelligible account of this will be found at page 217. We are pleased to find that Dr. Bartholow characterizes general electrization and the electric bath as commonly employed as methods of application more profitable in the hands of the charlatan than of the true physician. We are also glad to see the Leclanché element recommended for portable batteries. The therapeutic uses and modes of use of electricity are clearly set forth in entire accordance with accepted scientific views, and demand no further notice. Students and practitioners who have not Poore's little work on electricity will do well to possess themselves of this, which takes rank on a parity beside it, and store in mind the valuable lessons which they alike contain, of the capabilities and scientific use of this potent therapeutic agent so much neglected by the general practitioner.