

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Procedures Recommended for the Study of Bacteria, with Special Reference to Greater Uniformity in Description and Differentiation of Species. Being the report of a committee of American Bacteriologists to the committee on the pollution of water supply, American Board of Health Association. Concord, N. H., 1898.

We have a peculiar pleasure in drawing attention to this very remarkable report, inasmuch as the movement which resulted in its production, originated in Montreal.

All who have interested themselves in bacteriological research, have for years been hindered in their work by the fact that upon turning to the literature, in order to discover whether a form studied by them had been already described, they have found that the descriptions given are so vague and so imperfect that further research along many lines has been hindered because of the uncertainty lest the observer should be wrongly adding yet one more to the hosts of descriptions of species already upon record.

To remedy this state of affairs, at the instigation of Dr. Wyatt Johnston, Dr. Adami wrote to the several laboratories on this continent to see whether any scheme could be arranged for collective investigation as it may be termed, upon the more common forms of bacteria, so as to obtain well worked out and standard descriptions of the same, and in 1894, when the meeting of the American Public Health Association met at Montreal, Major Smart, (now Deputy-Surgeon General, U.S.A.), chairman of the committee upon the pollution of water supplies of that Association, became actively interested in the matter, and in his report suggested that there should be a co-operative investigation into the bacteriology of water supplies, as a means of bringing order out of chaos of the literature of water bacteria, and of throwing light upon the bacteriological side of questions of practical sanitation.

This suggestion originating from Dr. Wyatt Johnston, was approved at the association, and Dr. Smart was authorised to build up a committee for this purpose. As a first step, Dr. Smart appointed a sub-committee consisting of himself, Mr. Geo. W. Fuller, (a leading authority upon the bacteriology of water) Prof. Adami and Dr. Wyatt Johnston, to determine the methods of laboratory procedure to be