

## BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

**A TEXT-BOOK OF HYGIENE.** A comprehensive treatise on the principles and practice of preventive medicine from an American standpoint. By George H. Rohé, M.D., professor of hygiene, college of physicians and surgeons, Baltimore, etc., pp. 324, 8vo. Baltimore: Thomas & Evans.

We have not yet been able to make careful examination of this new work, but from the half-hour devoted to looking through it, we are much pleased with it. The aim of the author, stated in the preface, has been to place in the hands of the American student, practitioner, and sanitary officer, a trustworthy guide to the principles and practice of preventive medicine. He appears to have treated the various subjects of the book in a practical manner, and the arrangement of the whole is good. Perhaps the greatest fault in connection with the book is its brevity, considering the class of readers for whom it is intended. We consider it superior to most other handbooks on public health which we have seen. The author does not claim that there is much in it that is new, but "hopes nothing in it is untrue." We probably shall refer to it on another occasion.

**ORIGIN OF SPECIES.** By H. B. Philbrook, editor *Problems of Nature*, pp. 76, New York.

This is a remarkable book, and, if one could realize and believe it, it would be startling, if anything in this age could startle one. We find in it, "in each plant all the process that is necessary to construct what can be converted into a human being is being constantly operated. In these orders of creation the same process is being performed. The operation is simply a work of the agent of creation we call electricity. It is a fact that this wonderful agent called electricity is the very holy breath of God that is rendered Holy Ghost in the translations of the Bible. This holy breath of God is the very substance of which the soul is constructed, and the great prophet so states. In reference to Darwin's works the author says, "a more complete failure is nowhere to be found in any great mind's production, and it is only charitable to state that this author was in doubt as to its being true, and frankly admitted it.

**THE OFFICES OF ELECTRICITY IN THE HUMAN BODY;** an explanation of growth, mind and the work of repair. By H. B. Philbrook, New York. This was published in the first five numbers of *Problems of Nature*.

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE BOARDS OF HEALTH,** held at St. Louis, Oct. 13-15, 1884.

Subject:—The threatened extension of Asiatic cholera to North America, and the action necessary to prevent or limit a cholera epidemic. Illinois state board of health, Springfield, 1884.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL BY FLUSH-TANK AND SUB-SURFACE IRRIGATION,** by the drainage construction company, Newport, R. J.

**PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXCLUSION AND PREVENTION OF ASIATIC CHOLERA IN NORTH AMERICA.**

An address delivered at the opening of the national conference of state boards of health, St. Louis, October 13, 1884, by John H. Rauch, M.D., secretary, Illinois state board of health, Springfield, Ill.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

**THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY** for February contains good articles on the following subjects: sight and hearing of railway employees, by William Thomson, M.D.; the larger import of scientific education; evolution and destiny of man, by W. D. LeSueur; food and feeding, by Grant Allen; and physical training of girls; with much other interesting and instructive matter. There is, too, a pleasing paper—why birds sing—by Dr. B. Placzek, a translation from *Kosmos*. In this we are told that "love-life is more largely and intensely developed among the feathered races than any other of the families of animals." For March we are promised papers on the following subjects: Science in politics; the Darwinian theory of insects, by G. J. Romanes, F.R.S.; medical expert testimony, by Dr. Frank H. Hamilton; Cholera, its modes of propagation, by Dr. Max von Pettenkofer; the painless extinction of life, by Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., F.R.S., (illustrated); the chemistry of cooking, by W. Mattie Williams; English experience with cancer, by H. P. Dunn, F.R.C.S.; and the parental foresight of insects.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE** for February is a very good number. The frontispiece—the mermaid and the sea wolf, from a painting by F. S. Church, is exceedingly pretty. Hatfield House and the Marquis of Salisbury, with portrait of the marquis and numerous other illustrations, is the first paper. "Lord Salisbury dabbles in chemistry. In his room is a large cupboard with glass doors displaying a portentous array of chemicals. His lordship is also a successful amateur in photography. He has put to practical use his scientific talents by planning the lighting of Hatfield House by electricity. This is done in a very thorough and workmanlike manner. In the dining-room the lights are so hung from the ceiling that when in full blaze it is only the sharpest eyesight that can discern the wires by which they are pendant. To others the lights shine as stars in the lofty domed roof. . . . In the House of Lords, half leaning on the table, and speaking in a level, conversational tone, as if his helpless victims were not of sufficient importance to inspire either gesture or declamation, he lets fall some of the most rasping sentences which it is possible to combine in the English language." In the March number we are to have: "The House of Orange," with thirteen illustrations, and "A glimpse of some Washington homes," with eleven illustrations.