

the distance travelled by an express train in a day, and that by foot or by a caravan. A full account of the development and spread of the disease in America is given, from the earliest records up to its appearance in New York in 1892. We are then given a full account of the discovery of the bacillus, a description of its appearance, and an estimate of its vitality in the various media in which it has been discovered.

We should think that portion of the book devoted to the prevention of the disease would be the most useful to the lay reader, for whom the work is principally intended. The last section deals with the various means of disinfection, and a lucid description is given, not only of the manner in which the various solutions may be prepared, but of the way in which they may be used.

Parke, Davis & Co. have just issued, for gratuitous distribution to inquiring physicians, two valuable brochures, one entitled "Acometric Syllabus," and the other, "Biologic Therapeutics."

The first named work embraces forty-two closely printed pages, giving diseases and indications in each, which may be met by the use of diurnules and diurnal tablet triturates. It will be of much interest to practitioners requiring a system of medication involving the most certain remedies in the minutest form.

Under the head of "Biologic Therapeutics," are furnished reprints of the lecture of Hector W. G. Mackenzie, M.A., M.D. (England), on "The Treatment of Myxoedema and other Diseases by the use of certain Organic Extracts," also an illustrated paper by Edward Carmichael, M.D., Edinburgh, on "Cretinism treated by the Hypodermic Injection of Thyroid Extract and by Feeding;" besides excerpts from prominent medical journals upon the use of thyroid gland in therapeutics.

Either or both of these pamphlets will be mailed free to any physician applying to Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Michigan.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Abscess of the Larynx. By PRICE BROWN, M.D., Toronto. From the *New York Medical Record*.

Organic Stricture of the Oesophagus. By PRICE BROWN, M.D., Toronto. Reprinted from the *New York Medical Journal*.

AN EPITOME OF CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE.

Treatment of Pericarditis by Ice Bag. — The *British Medical Journal* for February 18th, 1893, gives an abstract of an article by Dr. Leeds. He draws attention to the serious consequences, through damage to the cardiac muscle, of the formation of adhesions which too often result in pericarditis after apparent recovery. He pointed out that the present treatment of pericarditis was practically *nil*, or, worse than this, harmful, because very frequently the onset of this disease causes the physician to stop the use of the salicylates.

He has tried the application of the ice bag over the pericardium in such cases with very good results. In his opinion it subjects the adjacent inflammation, relieves cardiac depression, and actually acts as a true cardiac tonic. Of course it should be used with caution, and the patient should not become chilled. The application is generally favoured by the patient.—*Journal of Balneology*.

Caffeine-Chloral in Chronic Constipation. — Professor Ewald, of Berlin, has made use at the Augusta Hospital of a combination of the two drugs named in the heading. He has found it valuable for the treatment of constipation, when the compound is administered subcutaneously. He has made use of injections of four or five grains dissolved in water, and he has only failed once in thirteen cases of obtaining, as a result, thin stools; in some of these cases the ordinary drugs and free irrigation had been used without avail.

Ewald has also used the compound in a small number of rheumatic cases that had been resistant to the salicylates. In seven out of eight cases the injection of from three to six grains in twenty-four hours has been followed by reduction of pain and swelling in the affected joints. These injections, according to the information given in the Berlin correspondence of *Notes on New Remedies*, are usually not attended by any pain, although in a few cases there was a slight burning sensation at the point of the injection. The well-known, but not