

His love for ardent spirits was so strong, his appetite for opium so uncontrollable that he must still indulge in the use of these insidious poisons which he knew were undermining his system slowly but surely, and as an inevitable consequence nature yielded to their pernicious influence; an attack of delirium tremens supervened and death closed his sad career.

Wellington Street, Ottawa, Dec. 1868.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

A Hand-Book of Vaccination. By EDWARD C. SEATON, M.D., Medical Inspector to the Privy Council. Philadelphia; J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1868. Montreal; Dawson, Brothers.

The subject of vaccination is one which certainly should be full of interest to every practitioner, yet it seems to us that, compared with its very great importance, it receives but comparatively little attention. We are frequently asked by the public how it is, that in spite of the apparent vaccination of the majority of people, small-pox continues its ravages, every now and again striking terror into a community, by suddenly carrying off its victims from among the wealthy and the well-to-do. Were we to answer this question honestly according to our convictions, we would be forced to state that much of the vaccination is spurious, and therefore does not give that protection which is rightly supposed to belong to a thoroughly genuine and characteristic vesicle. At the present moment it is not our intention to enter into a discussion of this question; this we may do at an early date, but as the subject is one which is creating considerable excitement at the present moment in the city of Montreal, we could not avoid expressing briefly our opinion as introductory to a notice of the volume, the name of which heads this article. Although much progress has been made in investigating this subject within the last twenty-five years, no complete work has, till now, appeared since very early in the present century. The recent introduction of compulsory vaccination laws in the United Kingdom has been the means of concentrating upon this subject a good deal of attention from men well calculated to investigate, and Dr. Seaton's position as Medical Inspector of the Privy Council has enabled him to bring together in a handsome little volume of almost four hundred pages, the very latest information. At the very outset of the volume he starts with a truism which we can honestly endorse.