

comparatively recent, none of more than five or six years' duration. The little village of Guttet, in which the cases of leprosy have recently been recognized, is on the mountain side, nearly a two hours' climb above the town of Leuk, and contains about 200 inhabitants. The chalets are neat and comfortable. There was not the slightest reason for suggesting that either poverty or neglect of cleanliness had taken any share in producing the disease. It is doubtful how long leprosy has existed there. Its medical recognition dates back only ten years. But the two families in which alone it occurred until quite recently may have had cases nearly half a century ago. At any rate, none of the more remote cases has survived. Of the present four cases one patient is not related to either of the families concerned, and a fourth had no connection with the village. On the supposition that the disease has been present in two families in Guttet for fifty years without spreading to others, the facts are much better explained by the hypothesis of commensal communication than that of contagion in the proper sense. It has been suggested that the cases are a survival from the middle ages. Mr. Hutchinson agrees with Prof. Judassohn, who has twice at the request of the Swiss Government examined the facts, that this is a most improbable supposition. Mr. Hutchinson thinks that in consequence of the use of decomposing fish the Swiss Catholic cantons are incurring the danger of leprosy.—*J. A. M. A.*

The Basle Anatomical Nomenclature.

The crudities in anatomical nomenclature have long been recognized, but it was not until 1895, at the meeting of the Anatomical Society in Basle, that definite order was evolved by the adoption of 4,500 anatomical names. Since that time the system adopted has been known as the Basle anatomical nomenclature, or, as it is abbreviated, B. N. A., the *nomina anatomica*. The reasons for the adopting of these names and their more extended use, both in teaching and in writing, are fully explained in Dr. Llewellys F. Barker's forthcoming book on "Anatomical Terminology," advance sheets of which have been recently issued by P. Blakiston's Son & Company. The reason for the simplification of anatomical terms is obvious. According to Barker, the larger text-books on gross anatomy contain as many as 10,000 names, at least half of which are synonyms. If the anatomical terms used in various standard text-books are collected into one list, the total number amounts to more than 30,000. It is looked upon as a remarkable