

len, with bulging and a yellowish coloration of the posterior segment, one must perform myringotomy.

The incision is made in the postero-inferior segment, from near the tip of malleus downwards. Then take Politzer's rubber bag, and, by way of the Eustachian tube, force the exudate in the middle ear out through the opening in the membrana tympani. Carefully syringe out the external ear with a saturated boracic acid solution, and, after drying out the ear, blow in some very finely powdered boracic acid, and place in the external meatus a plug of antiseptic cotton-wool. Continue the inflation twice daily, and see that the incision in the membrana tympani keeps open so long as any exudate continues to collect in the middle ear and can be forced out with the rubber bulb.

By carefully carrying out the above described measures we shall have a much smaller percentage of deaf-mutes in our midst, and have fewer suffers from perforated membranæ tympani and chronic suppuration of the middle ear, with all its attendant evils.—*Annals of Ophthal. and Otology.*

## BOOK NOTICES.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS, with Especial Reference to the Clinical Application of Drugs. By John V. Shoemaker, A.M., M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Diseases of the Skin in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia; Physician to the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital; Member of the American Medical Association, of the Pennsylvania and Minnesota State Medical Societies, the American Academy of Medicine, the British Medical Association; Fellow of the Medical Society of London, etc., etc. Second Edition. Revised. In Two Royal Octavo Volumes. Volume I, 353 pages: Devoted to Pharmacy, General Pharmacology, and Therapeutics and Remedial Agents not Properly Classed with Drugs. Volume II, 680 pages: An Independent Volume upon Drugs. Volume I, in Cloth, \$2.50 net; Sheep, \$3.25 net. Volume II, in Cloth, \$3.50 net; Sheep \$4.50, net. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company, publishers, 1914 and 1916 Cherry Street.

If works on Materia Medica and Therapeutics generally have a fault, it is that they pay so much attention to the drug treatment of disease that diet and other hygienic measures are completely ignored. This, however, cannot be said of the volume before us, for in preparing a second edition of the work, the author has earnestly desired to emphasize his profound conviction of the value of the natural forces and of mechan-

ical and physiological agencies in the treatment of disease. The great aim of practical medicine is the cure or relief of disease. In the effort to accomplish this object, the physician should strive to make use of every means by which the system of the patient may be benefited in its struggle with the malady. Enlightened therapeutics must be preceded by a correct diagnosis, and diagnosis, in its turn, should lead us to a diligent study of etiology. It is only after the nature of an ailment has been recognized and its origin ascertained that we can be in a position to intelligently apply methods of relief. Pathology is but modified physiology, and if we are able, at an early period, to remove or neutralize the action of a malific cause, we aid Nature in the re-establishment of normal function. The origin of specific infection comes from without, the genesis of toxic processes is to be sought within the organism. In each of these two great morbid types, the tissues and organs are injuriously affected by the presence of abnormal chemical products. The grand object of modern therapeutics is, therefore, to prevent, as far as possible, the formation of these deleterious substances; or, when this effort has failed, to promote their speedy and thorough elimination. We have learned to appreciate more justly the resistant as well as the reparative power of the economy. The germicidal properties of the blood-serum and the white cells and the increased activity of the eliminating organs protect us from the dangers by which we are every day and every hour surrounded. Exact experimentation has recently shown us the comparative facility with which hungering and thirsting animals succumb to infection. In these facts, thus briefly stated, we have the foundation of the rules which should govern the medical profession. Preventive medicine and sanitary science should be the first objects of study. In the emergency of dangerous epidemics, the profession has the active assistance of the public. The laity can perceive the advantage of free ventilation and efficient drainage, but the regulation of personal habits, in accordance with the laws of hygiene, is, for most, a task too difficult to accomplish. This fertile cause of disease is always in operation. The practitioner, therefore, is constantly confronted with preventable but firmly-established disease. The correction of unhealthy physical habits must be the first step in the course of successful treatment. The physician should be competent to regulate his patients' mode of life as regards exercise, work, diet, amusement and sleep. The physiology of digestion must be thoroughly studied; the chemical composition, the nutritive value, and the methods of preparation of foods should be understood. Much good is accomplished simply by the relief of the organs of digestion, assimilation and excretion. The spirits and tone of mind and the circulation and processes of