

PULMONARY PHTHISIS. Its Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment. By H. Hyslop Thomson, M.D., Visiting Physician to the Consumptive Sanatoriums of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, N.B.; formerly Medical Superintendent. London: John Bale, Sons & Danielson, Ltd., Oxford House, 83-91 Great Titchfield Street, Oxford Street W. 1906.

The above monograph is an excellent short and concise account of pulmonary phthisis, comprised in a volume of about two hundred pages, freely illustrated with specimen fever charts.

The first three sections into which it is divided take up the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, the fourth, tuberculosis in childhood. The appendix consists of circulars issued by the Local Government Board of Scotland, and which contain much valuable information.

Special stress has been laid on prognosis and interpretation of the various local physical signs, and in the chapter on treatment the more recent methods employed are fully discussed, and reference is made to the advances made since Wright's opsonic theory has been introduced; the various tuberculins also receive attention.

The book throughout is essentially practical, as well as being most interesting reading.

Ignorance and superstition have always barked, like ill-conditioned curs, at the heels of advancing science, and they always will, "for 'tis their nature to." In the Dark Ages the scientific experimenter was looked upon as seeking knowledge from the powers of evil, and was lucky if he escaped being burnt. In modern days chloroform was denounced from the pulpit as "a decoy of Satan," which would "rob God of the deep earnest cries which arise in time of trouble for help." The abuse showered on Pasteur is believed to have helped to produce the disease of which he died. It might have been thought that so obviously beneficent an invention as spectacles would have escaped the anathemas of folly, yet these aids to vision were denounced as though they were inventions of the Devil. The story is told in Professor Gotch's contributions to the "Lectures on the Method of Science," recently issued from the Clarendon Press, and is so interesting in itself, and so illustrative of the nonsense which a man of education can utter under the inspiration of an antiscientific bias, that we make no excuse for quoting it:

"Tracts were written fulminating against the Royal Society