

## Reviews and Notices of Books.

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THE HYGIENE OF TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES. Their Causation, Modes of Dissemination and Methods of Prevention. By A. C. ABBOTT, M.D. Pp. 311. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1899. Price \$2.00.

Dr. Abbott's work is, we think, quite unique in English medical literature. Hitherto one has had to seek for the information it contains in works on the practice of medicine or surgery chiefly in the form of very summary and insufficient paragraphs on ætiology and prophylaxis. In this work is found a sufficiently detailed and systematic account of all the infective diseases with special reference to these two important points.

The first section of the work is devoted to a consideration of the general factors in the ætiology of disease. In the second section the transmissible diseases are taken up seriatim under the headings of Cause, Geographical Distribution, Modes of Dissemination, Portals of Infection and Prophylaxis. The third section deals with "Prophylaxis in General against Infectious Diseases, including vital, chemical, and physical processes, the Management of Contagious Diseases and Quarantine." An introductory chapter is devoted to a short historical account of the growth of our knowledge of hygiene, a plea for systematic instruction in this subject by qualified teachers, and a vindication of the practical utility of the sciences. Beyond a slight redundancy of expression and a perhaps not quite justifiable aggressiveness of tone in the introductory chapter, there is little to find fault with and there is much to commend. The very practical pages on disinfection, chemical and thermal, and on the special disinfection of rooms, privies, wells, sputum and schools, and of the hands will be welcomed by all practitioners of medicine and surgery as coming from one who has a personal knowledge of what he writes. There are numerous illustrations including maps, statistical charts, and diagrams and microphotographs of bacteria.

H. A. L.

PROGRESSIVE MEDICINE. Edited by Hobart Amory Hare, M.D. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1899. Vol. III.

This volume fully maintains the standard set by its predecessors. Dr. William Ewart's contribution on Diseases of the Thorax and its Viscera including the Heart, Lungs and Bloodvessels, is the longest in the volume and the most generally interesting, and, as might be expected, is very complete. Of special interest are the sections on pleximetric bones and viscera and auscultatory percussion, the treatment of pneu-