

not be utilized, there is an increase of 30, nearly as many as there are ships, and the medical corps is reduced five numbers—from 170 to 165. Two hundred and thirty-four commanding officers and 165 doctors, 190 engineers and 96 paymasters. Is not this an absurdity? Is not this a line bill and a malicious expensive one at that?

"Examine still other provisions and the unfairness of this bill becomes yet more apparent. In Section 12 it is arranged that there shall be at least twenty numbers made each year in all grades below lieutenant commander. Now as there are seventy-five lieutenants of the junior grade provided, an officer must pass through that grade at the most in a little over three and a half years, and will do so in less time. Now examine the staff corps. A man in any one of these corps must of course wait for vacancies above him in his own corps before he can be promoted. In the Medical Corps, there are forty lieutenants of the junior grade provided in a corps with 165 members, nearly one-fourth of the whole corps. As, during the last twelve years, there have been four numbers made each year, it will take a medical officer ten years to pass through this grade. Less than three and a half years in the line and ten years in the Medical Corps. This is, indeed, a line bill with a vengeance! In the Engineer Corps it will take five or six years to pass through this grade and in the Pay Corps seven years. The unfairness of this is very apparent. The result of this will be that young men in the line will have great rank, while in the staff a man will carry his gray hairs around, even in the lower grades.

"Even in this treatment of the staff corps mentioned there is a curious lack of consistency. In Section 25 it will be seen that in the Medical Corps of 165 members, 30 are allowed with the rank of lieutenant commander. In Section 33 it will be seen that in the Pay Corps of ninety-six members the same number of lieutenant commanders is allowed. In one case less than a fifth, and in the other nearly a third. A strange and curious inconsistency. The number of this rank in the Medical Corps should for every reason be fifty. That is the number of the surgeon's grade now for which the title, staff surgeon is substituted. They were all with the relative rank of lieutenant commander a few years ago, but are now divided in rank simply by line stagnation, and will be forever divided by this bill.

"Furthermore, this bill provides for a criminal result so far as the Medical Corps is concerned. The Medical Corps gets competent men now with great difficulty, and from lack of inducements offered has not had its complement since 1865. What will be the state of that corps under this bill? Every diminution in inducement means a lowering of standard for admission, and under the inducements offered by this bill this standard will necessarily have to be placed so low that the lives of officers and men will be placed in the hands of incompetent persons. Equalization of the rank and pay of the Medical Corps of the Navy should not be made with the line of the Navy, but rather with the Medical Corps of the Army. The market value of a doctor does not depend upon the supply of ensigns and has no relation to the Naval Academy. It depends upon the condition in civil life and upon inducements offered by the other public services, such as the Army and Marine-Hospital service. Vacancies in those services for which there are not suitable men is unknown. In the Army, assistant surgeons have the rank, pay and emoluments of a first lieutenant of cavalry for the first five years' service—pay alone \$1,600—and the rank, pay and emoluments of the grade of captain after five years' service—pay alone \$2,000 (Section 4, act June 23, 1874).

"At the upper end of the corps is one brigadier general. Colonels in the Medical Corps receive \$4,500 on the active list and \$3,375 on the retired list. This bill proposes for the Navy that an assistant surgeon shall enter with the rank of second lieutenant (Army), with his highest pay \$1,200. He will be behind the Army man in his promotion and at the end, after many years, his highest shore duty pay will be \$3,500. The Army ranks are generally full, but the rewards of service are none too great, and there is not much struggling for appointment. It is, therefore, a great mistake to suppose that competent assistant surgeons can be obtained for the Navy at \$1,200 at sea and the rank of ensign. The result will be an incompetent corps. The efficiency of the Navy can not be promoted by destroying or weakening its medical service.

"From every direction the truth of the proposition becomes evident that Congress may improve the pay and position of the line officer, but it can not do so at the expense of the staff without injustice. This injustice would lower the efficiency of the service and make discord and discontent.—AN OFFICER OF THE NAVY.

Castration for Prostatic Hypertrophy.

Dr. Ricketts to Prof. J. William White.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, Jan. 23, 1895.

My Very Dear Doctor:—I received your letter recently concerning the removal of testes for hypertrophied prostate. Since that time I have kept informed upon all things pertaining to this new work, so far as I have been able.

The following communication was just received from the physician who has charge of the patient whose testes I removed on Oct. 26, 1894:

Jan. 22, 1895.

"Dear Doctor:—The patient whose testes you removed on Oct. 26, 1894, for hypertrophied prostate, has no obstruction, straining, or severe pain, which he formerly had while urinating. He passes water still too freely, and complains of burning and itching after micturition.

"I would say that he is well and doing nicely.

Very fraternally, L. M. GREEN."

Thus you see that the results in this case verify those of the others that have been reported.

I am thoroughly satisfied that this operation is one that, sooner or later, will become generally adopted for the relief of hypertrophied prostate.

I am also satisfied that to you belongs the credit for first suggesting it; surely for doing the experimental work necessary to establish the facts concerning it.

You may use this letter in any way you deem proper.

I am, very truly, MERRILL RICKETTS, M.D.

Dr. J. Wm. White, Philadelphia.

BOOK NOTICES.

Laboratory Guide for the Bacteriologist. By LANGDON FROTHINGHAM, M.D.V. Illustrated. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders. 1895. Price 75 cents.

This is an excellent companion for the laboratory table. Several methods of bacteriologic examination are mentioned here that are not in common use, and some of them will save much time over former methods.

Syllabus of Gynecology; based on the American Text-Book of Gynecology. By J. W. LONG, M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1894. Price, \$1.

This syllabus seems to be a complete syllabus of the topics set forth in the "American Text-Book of Gynecology"; it is intended also to be used as lecture notes. The work is of the same style as Senn's "Syllabus of Surgery."

The Twelfth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Indiana for the Year 1893.

This report, besides giving an official account of the sanitary work of the year, describes in detail the progress of the smallpox epidemic at Muncie and the measures taken to prevent its spread. Cuts and descriptions of the hospitals built for the reception of smallpox patients are given, and the volume concludes with a list of the physicians of the State.

The Retrospect of Medicine; a Half-yearly Journal containing a Retrospective View of every Discovery and practical Improvement in Medical Science. Edited by JAMES BRAITHWAITE, M.D., Lond. Vol. cx. July-December, 1894. (Issued January, 1895.) London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. Ltd. Pp. 438. Cloth.

The title sets forth fully what Dr. Braithwaite assumes to accomplish. While the work is a valuable one, for the abstracts it gives are always interesting and instructive, it is far from complete, nor could a work give a complete abstract of the discoveries and improvements in medical science within the limits of 400 pages, and it is painfully apparent that the venerable editor draws from an extremely limited exchange list for a journal with such ambitious professions.

Notes on the Newer Remedies; Their Therapeutic Applications and Modes of Administration. By DAVID CERNA, M.D., Ph.D. Second Edition, Enlarged and Revised. Pp. 253. Cl. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1895. Price, \$1.25.

This little book, which is dedicated to Prof. Horatio C. Wood, of Philadelphia, has a great field of usefulness. The newer remedies are described by the medical press as they are reported, from time to time, and occasionally mentioned in case reports, but the author has here gathered them together in one volume, and briefly given a definition, an account of the physical properties, solubility, physiologic action, therapeutic application and dosage of each. We are pleased to note that the decimal system of dosage has been employed. In most cases both the British and the metric dose is given. The volume is a useful one and should have a large distribution.

Medico-Chirurgical Transactions. Published by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. Vol. LXXVII. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1884.

This volume, one of the most interesting of its series, contains besides the usual lists, and proceedings, twenty papers as follows:

1, Diseases of many Joints probably of Syphilitic Origin,