trouble to make bread at home the flour is generally of the anæmic order in spite of improved methods of milling. In saying this we do not detract from the value of this book, for the author has pursued his subject on sound scientific and hygienic lines. We should, however, like to have seen the question touched upon of the old farmhouse loaf made from the old-fashioned ground flour *versus* bread made from the roller-milled article. It may be a heresy but the empirical loaf is regarded by many with more favour than that prepared on exact lines. It should be added that some medical men have advanced the idea that the flours imported from America have something to do with the prevalence of appendicitis and it is stated that some of these flours yield hard pellets of gluten which it is thought may possibly start the inflammatory process.

New Conceptions in Science. By CARL SNYDER. New and revised edition. New York and London: Harper and Bros. 1904. Pp. 361. Price 7s. 6d. net.—We reviewed the first edition of this book in THE LANCET of Oct 31st, 1903, p. 1239, and there is little to add that could be fresh criticism in regard to the second edition the issue of which has so quickly followed the first. Beyond a little revision of phraseology here and there, there is no difference between the two editions. The book is an American view of the relations of science and progress and on the whole the story is told in a bright and attractive way, though perhaps the author occasionally falls into a line of interpretation which is a somewhat elastic presentation of actual facts. This is a common tendency of popular disquisitions on scientific progress.

Food for the Tropics. By T. M. MACKNIGHT. London: W. Thacker and Co. 1904. Pp. 116. Price 3s. 6d. net.—This is a valuable book and, as Mr. Macknight implies in his preface, fills a gap. We are glad to see, also, that he lays stress on the point that the indigenous products of a tropical country are more suitable food for the inhabitants than any which can be imported from a country having a totally different climate. The food stuffs described in the book are classified into those which are eaten respectively for their hydrocarbons, proteids, fats, sugars, salts, and for their flavour and carminative properties, such as spices and curry powder. The book is a useful addition to the cuisine of a household in the tropics.

Calendar of the University Correspondence College, 1903-04. Cambridge: Burlington House. Pp. 64, plus 142. Price 1s. net.—Besides the usual contents of an educational calendar the one before us contains a number of examination papers with their solutions. We may point out that the solution to the first question in the paper in English is rather confusing, for the question set is to write an essay on the mountain ranges of *Europe*, while the solution talks about the mountains of the *Old World* and says that "the great axis runs from the coast of Spain to the Pacific seaboard." In the next paragraph the student is told, "Nothing higher than Mont Blanc." Such a muddled solution as this would not be much help to the ignorant seeker after knowledge. Otherwise, so far as we have tested them, the solutions are clear.

Recent Excavations in the Roman Forum, 1898-1904. By E. BURTON BROWN. London: John Murray. 1904. Pp. 223.—Rome, Athens, and Constantinople are the three cities about the history of which no educated man is ever tired of hearing and every year adds to our knowledge of the first two if not of the last named. Mrs. Burton Brown's little book, which is prefaced by an introduction written by the Commendatore Boni who has been in charge of the excavations, gives a very clear account of the findings in the Forum during the period with which the work deals. From a medical point of view the most interesting discovery was that of the fountain of Juturna which was

almost from the first credited with healing properties and became in comparatively late times, 293 B.C., connected with the cult of Æsculapius. Of the many other objects of interest we have no space to speak but we would counsel anyone who goes to Rome in a proper spirit to provide himself with this little book and to use the information therein contained wisely.

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES.

The Practitioner.—The issue of this journal for March continues the series of articles relating to Typhoid Fever. A contribution upon the diagnosis of that disease from the pen of Dr. Claude B. Ker contains a careful discrimination of the many conditions that have to be considered as well as a strong defence of the value of the Widal test which Dr. Ker pronounces after three years' experience to be practically infallible. Dr. Ker ascribes much importance to the bronchitis and the epistaxis of the early days of the illness from a diagnostic point of view. Dr. Arthur Whitfield's lectures on Eczema are concluded in this number. The illustrations are disappointing, a fact which appears to us to be usually the case when it is attempted to reproduce the appearance of lesions of the skin by photographic processes. A series of cases of Cancer of the Mouth and Fauces by Mr. Stanley Boyd and an excellent monograph on Black Urine by Dr. A. E. Garrod are also contained in this issue.

Medical Electrolology and Radiology.—This journal, which is the official organ of the British Electro-Therapeutic Society and is now entering on Volume V., will from the beginning of the present year be published monthly instead of quarterly as hitherto. The change is made chiefly with a view of enabling the reports of the proceedings of the Electro-Therapeutic Society to be placed in the hands of members more promptly than before. Several excellent articles begun in the January number are continued in February—such as the review by Dr. W. S. Hedley, the editor, on the Advances made in Electricity and Radio-activity in 1903, Dr. George Herschell's Practical Lessons in the Treatment of Affections of the Gastro-intestinal Tract by Electrical Methods, and the Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association. The annual address delivered by Sir Isambard Owen at the conversazione of the British Electro-Therapeutic Society is reported in full in the January number. The February number contains editorial remarks on M. Blondlot's "n" rays and the first instalment of an article by Mr. Clarence A. J. Wright on the Methods of Application of High-frequency Currents.

New Inventions.

INDIARUBBER ANTRUM PLUG.

FOR some years I have had made for me a solid india-rubber plug in sizes corresponding to the English catheter gauge Nos. 3 to 12. I found that they were more comfortable and satisfactory than the hollow metal tubes. At first I had trouble in getting them made sufficiently strong

and at a price suitable for all classes of patients. Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, of 71, Great Portland-street, London, W., have now undertaken to supply them, moulded in one piece and at a reasonable price. The round shield on

the base can be cut to any shape, so allowing them to be used both for the operation through the alveolar process and above in the canine fossa. After the operation opening has closed to the required size the plug is inserted, the shield being cut wherever it appears to press uncomfortably. The patient is then given a Higginson syringe with a soft catheter attached corresponding in size to the plug selected. This forms an effective and convenient apparatus for daily washing out the affected cavity.

Harley-street, W.

CLAUD WOAKES.

Analytical Records

FROM

THE LANCET LABORATORY.

CASTOREUM BROMIDE.

(AGENCY: HARTMANN, HOHMANN, AND CO., MOULTON-STREET, STRANGEWAYS, MANCHESTER, AND 33, SEETHING-LANE, LONDON, E.C.)

THE formula of this preparation is novel, comprising bromide, valerian, and castor. Its employment is suggested in nervous disorders and hysteria and in particular it is stated to have been prescribed successfully for epilepsy, chorea, and sleeplessness. "Castoreum bromide" consists of an effervescent powder and affords a convenient way of taking two drugs which are disagreeable to the taste. Castor is rarely prescribed now, although it has some reputation as serving to control the spasms of hysteria and other convulsions.

ANTURIC BATH SALTS.

(THE ANTURIC SALTS COMPANY, LIMITED, 12, SUFFOLK-STREET, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.)

This preparation, according to its vendors, is the solution of the great problem—gout. The "remedy" proves to be a powder composed principally of carbonate of sodium with a trace, probably as an impurity, of common salt. Our readers will know what value as a remedy for gout to set upon this article, the price of which is 3s. 6d. per tin. We advise those sufferers from gout who are quoted as having given testimonials in favour of this preparation to try carbonate of sodium which is much cheaper. A pinch of salt might be added to the bath in order to imitate more closely the Anturic preparation. Patients are advised by the Anturic Salts Company to take care before getting out of the bath to place a wet towel over the side in order that they may take a firm grip on emerging as the "Anturic salts combining with the matter exuded by the skin render the body slippery." There is no warning given as to the probably harmful action of the strong alkali contained in these "salts" upon some skins.

"ATOMO" CIGARETTES.

(S. COHEN AND CO., 1 AND 2, SNOW HILL, LONDON, E.C.)

The tobacco of the cigarettes examined has been subjected to a strong draught of air which removes adherent sand, clay, light fluffy particles, and other mechanically adherent matters. The tobacco leaf is thus not only improved in colour but in flavour also when smoked. The effect of the process is clearly demonstrated in the following results of analysis. The untreated tobacco contained 12.05 per cent. of mineral matter, of which 4.15 per cent. proved to be sand, &c. The tobacco subjected to the forced draught contained 10.75 per cent. of mineral matter of which 2.65 per cent. was sand. The process thus removes nearly 50 per cent. of useless and probably irritating mineral matter. The dust so removed proved to contain 29.65 per cent. of mineral matter of which no less than 21.30 per cent. was fine sand. It is not only mineral matter that is removed, for on microscopical examination particles of fibre were observed as well as a fluffy material which might easily prove to be a source of irritation

to the throat. It is possible that cigarette smokers derive an inflamed throat from drawing into the mouth the irritating light and easily removed particles present in the tobacco leaf. Some persons state that though they are inveterate smokers of the pipe or cigar and suffer no inconvenience thereby their throats are at once affected when they smoke cigarettes. The removal of dust by this process indicates that it is a possible factor in such cases.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, March 18, 1926.

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE Anniversary Meeting of the Members of this Society was held on Wednesday last, at the London Coffee-house, when the following ORATION¹ on the Study of the Human Mind was delivered by Dr. HASLAM.

Of ordinary minds, the memory consists, for the most part, of *excited recollections*, and the character of this faculty in animals seems to be wholly of this nature. Study, in its proper sense, is the fixation and endurance of the attention to any particular subject, and this attention, as has been before observed, is a voluntary act, acquired by repeated and even painful exertions. If we attentively watch the proceedings of our own minds, even under the endeavour to pursue a subject of delighting investigation, we become shortly aware that we are interrupted by external circumstances distracting the attention, or by the intrusion of reveries, entirely irrelevant to the direct object of our meditations, which frequently engage us so earnestly, that the original subject escapes beyond the power of immediate recovery. Since, by a candid confession, these intrusions to a greater or less degree are common to all minds, we must consider the control or voluntary power which the intellect can exercise over its thoughts, so as to confine and direct them, to be the highest effort of human perseverance and attainment. It is this concentration of mind and promptitude of thought—this undiverted pursuit of the desired object, that persuades in council, rallies in debate, averts impending disaster, and, in the moment of perilous conflict, turns the balance to victory. The nature of volition, in a medical point of view, is of the greatest importance, nor is it less interesting in a moral aspect, for the just consideration of this subject will tend to throw additional light on tremor, paralysis, chorea, tetanus, and other morbid affections of the same class; it will explain the states of sleep, dreaming, and somnambulism, and conduct us to the proper investigation of those affections of the intellectual part of our nature, that render man incompetent to exercise his volition, or disqualify him for the management of himself and his affairs; for it is evident that man, as a responsible agent, is equally involved by the determinations of his will, in committing such actions as he ought to avoid, and in leaving undone that which it is his duty to perform. In the successful prosecution of this subject, we may expect a nicer discrimination between crime and insanity than has been hitherto established, and anticipate the explosion of that baneful doctrine of the mind's unsoundness, the mischievous contrivance of forensic subtlety, the refuge of ignorance and the tool of fraud—the blazon of materialism, an insult to common sense and a libel on the Christian religion.

¹ Only a portion of the report of the oration has been transcribed. A footnote states that "This Oration was received with reiterated shouts of applause."

PROPOSED CENSUS IN 1906.—At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society held on March 15th it was announced that the council of the society was about to represent to the Board of Trade the desirability of taking a census in the year 1906 instead of waiting till 1911. A motion on the subject will probably be submitted to the House of Commons.