long disuse, and have found out painfully the next day how many neglected muscles have been brought into play. Of the lessons of this book we can say nothing but good; it is only their enforcement which is wanting.

Knapsack Handbook, or Pedestrian's Guide. By WILLIAM WHITE, A.C., F.S.A., &c. Second Edition. London: Edward Stanford, Charing-cross. — This pamphlet, by a member of the Alpine Club, contains in a handy form lists for the use of the ordinary knapsack tourist, showing what he should wear and what he should carry, together with much short and sensible advice. The knapsack itself is not discussed, as it is taken for granted that an invention of the author's, called the "porte-knapsack," will be used, which remedies "all drag on the arms and all pressure on the breast or between the shoulders." But from beginning to end the pamphlet is the work of a man who has learned by experience what he wants himself, and the price is a small one to pay even for the grateful security from finding that one has "left something behind."

Health Lectures for the People. Delivered in Manchester, 1882-3. Vol. vi. Manchester: Heywood. 1883.—This is the sixth course of lectures published by the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association. The subjects treated were those relating to "The Home and the Household in their Sanitary Aspects." We are disposed to think that some of the lectures are not well adapted for the class for whose instruction, it is to be presumed, they were chiefly intended, but others are very practical, plain, and instructive. Those by Dr. Ransome, "On Some Dangers connected with Dwellings, and how to avoid them"; by Dr. Leech, "On Personal Care of Health"; by Mr. Reynolds' "On Thrift, its bearing on Health and Disease"; and by Dr. Simpson, "On Cookery for the Household," appear well adapted to promote the objects of the Association, and to point out to heads of families how they may most effectually care for the health of those in whom they are interested, and for whose well-being they are responsible.

Smoky Chimneys: their Cause, Prevention, and Cures. (Illustrated.) By Captain JAMES T. JOHNSTON, R.E. pp. 16. Plymouth: Bowering and Co. 1883.—There are few greater domestic nuisances than a smoky chimney. This pamphlet has been written by an officer who has evidently studied and understands the subject, in the hope that it may be useful in helping the afflicted householder effectually to remedy the evil. We are not so sanguine as to believe that all smoky chimneys can be cured unless by pulling down and rebuilding; but we know from personal experience that much may be done by a careful study of the causes, and the adoption of the appropriate remedies. These are well pointed out in the pamphlet, which we recommend to all who are suffering from the nuisance. It has the great merits of being short, clear, easily understood, and practical.

"PROBABLE CHOLERA CENTRES IN LONDON."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your sanitary commissioner will no doubt be glad to learn that before his visit to Wickham-place the matter had been reported to the vestry on July 17th, and the necessary notices had been prepared and probably served. I should be glad indeed if he could relieve me of a burden which has been too heavy for my shoulders ever since my appointment. Medical officers of health and inspectors of nuisances cannot be everywhere in their districts at the same time. A court is dealt with, every house is visited, every nuisance removed, every sanitary requirement complied with after a fashion; but in many cases the tenants are debased to the lowest level, the landlords plausible when it suits their purpose, defiant when pushed to extremities,

shifty when before the magistrate. Neither class will give the least assistance to the inspector, who, perhaps, has to call in the aid of the police when he goes to visit the neighbourhood. If a couple of months be allowed to pass while necessary work is being done in some other part of the district, all that was done is undone; the houses are once more dirty, the taps and supply pipes stolen, the closets without water, the yards foul and fetid. The medical officer would gladly have such an area cleared, but he cannot say the houses are unfit for human habitation, they are only neglected—neglected alike by tenants, landlords, visitors. No complaint ever reaches him; no one stirs hand or foot to help. The inspector alone, with the medical officer, ever attempts to do anything for the neglected and degraded outcasts. And here I must say that your commissioner has done me personally but scant justice in his report. One would imagine that *he* had suggested that the neighbourhood of Turk's-row should be dealt with as an area capable of improvement. Surely I am not dreaming in fancying that I mentioned to him the circumstance that this area had been reported to the Metropolitan Board. They did not entertain the question, on the ground, as I was informed, that the property would soon pass into the possession of the ground landlord, who meant to undertake a scheme of improvement embracing the entire neighbourhood.

There are very probably other courts and alleys in Chelsea that stand in need at this moment of a visit from the inspector. It is unnecessary here to go into detail of what is done from day to day. I will only say that the vestry is fully prepared to deal with cholera in the same liberal manner in which it was dealt with during the last visitation. But there is one question which has often presented itself to my mind—viz., how far a medical officer of health would be justified in demanding what we all know to be desirable, that no cistern used for domestic purposes should have any connexion with a w.c. Will the law be on his side if he prosecute a landlord for having only one cistern in a cottage with, perhaps, only one family? If so, will it justify him in prosecuting the owners of houses in Grosvenor-square? I am afraid that I ought to offer some apology to your commissioner when I tell you that at the very time he was waiting for me, I was arranging for the first steps being taken which may lead to the question being tried before a police-magistrate. I am sure that the gain of a favourable decision would be incalculable; and it seems to me that the present opportunity ought not to be lost. Everyone admits the agency of foul drinking-water in the propagation of cholera, and none can deny the frightful mortality of that disease.

I shall be very glad when your sanitary commissioner can find time to visit any other courts in Chelsea, and will give me the benefit of the information he obtains, even though it be at the expense of a graphic description in THE LANCET. Perhaps in doing so he would kindly abstain from finding fault with a vestry extremely anxious to do what is right as the sanitary authority. Its members are not omniscient, nor am I.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. W. BARCLAY,

Aug. 1883.

Medical Officer of Health.

* * We are glad to note that since the publication of our report on Probable Cholera Centres, the authorities of Chelsea parish have distributed a circular to the tenants of the upper and middle class dwellings in that borough, calling attention to drainage and water-supply. This circular states that there should be no communication whatsoever between cisterns used for domestic purposes and the house-drains. This is an indisputable principle of good sanitation, but it is a principle that is rarely carried out, and some legal means must be found to enforce the doctrine. We trust the parish of Chelsea will, as intimated in Dr. Barclay's letter, raise a test case, and fight the matter out successfully.—ED. L.

ROYAL RED CROSS.—The "Gazette" of the 14th inst. announces that the Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the undermentioned nursing sisters, under the provisions of Her Majesty's warrant, dated April 23rd, 1883—viz., Miss M. Selby, Miss J. King, Miss K. Forrest, Miss M. Thomas, Miss A. Crisp, Miss A. Yardley, Miss A. K. Holland, Mrs. Janet King, and Miss Hornor.