was valuable to the civil as well as to the military medical practitioner, and that it has been appreciated, the appearance of this second edition is a sufficient guarantee. Truly does the author write that "the present edition is not produced as a mere reprint; on the contrary, it is hoped that additions and alterations have been made which may be regarded as improvements." Six years' additional careful study and research—six years' more experience of the effects of tropical climates on the European constitution, and of the treatment in this country of the diseases thereby engendered—have enabled the author to revise the first edition of his work most effectually, and to produce the present volume, with its alterations and improvements, in a manner, we feel sure, as satisfactory to himself as it will be acceptable to the profession.

It is not our purpose to enter into any minute examination of the contents of this edition; but we would urge the attention of our medical brethren to the consideration and examination of the very many interesting, instructive, nay, vital points therein treated; not as regards practical medicine alone, *but especially as relates to sanitary measures and preventive medicine*. The work itself lays claim to some extent to the character of a systematic treatise on the subject entertained, and no one can open a chapter in the volume without being struck with the comprehensive, clear, and masterly manner in which each section is examined.

The various points embraced would afford materials for a much larger work, but Sir Ranald has acted judiciously in confining himself to the original character of the publication; for, as the work is eminently essential to every military and naval medical man, so the bulk of the volume must always be a consideration with those who, on service, have generally but little spare room for literature in their bullock-trunks or sea-chests. It is at the same time satisfactory to find that all the book contains is practically useful and instructive; indeed, it contains much information and advice that cannot be found in any work on medicine of the present day.

Part I. treats of Climate and Medical Statistics; and is full of the most important considerations. This chapter has one great feature, which to some extent pervades the whole work: it is so written that the non-professional inquirer may read it with much pleasure, and, we may add, with much advantage. So numerous are the points of general importance bearing on public health therein considered, that we feel it would be highly advantageous if the principles laid down by Sir Ranald Martin on the management of soldiers were somewhat better understood by the executive of our naval and military departments.

Part II. is devoted to the momentous question of the Prevention of Disease. We cannot speak too highly of the contents of this chapter. Here we have the most thorough considerations on the means—we might almost say, on the *certainty*—of preserving our soldiers' lives in the tropics. Every important point is most carefully laid before us, and every precaution is noted to secure for the European an immunity from climatic and other injurious influences such as soldiers too often unnecessarily and too frequently fatally, have been exposed to in the East and West Indies.

Part III. embraces the discussion of all Acute Tropical Diseases and their Treatment. Remittent and Intermittent Fever, Coup-de-Soleil, Dysentery, Diseases of the Liver and Spleen, Cholera, and the other common affections of India, are each fully entered into in this section. Alone, this chapter would form a volume of great value and interest to the young army surgeon about to join his regiment in the East; for the information contained in the observations by the author is the result of a fair life-time passed in that country, and of an experience of the acute diseases of that climate of which few men have had a larger share.

To the practitioner at home, the concluding chapter (Part IV.) of this work will be most interesting. It is entirely devoted to

the consideration of the various and often complicated conditions from which so many persons suffer who have passed any share of their lives in India, and for the alleviation of which they require on their arrival in this country the physician's most watchful care. Those who have had to deal with some of the sad wrecks of former healthy and robust constitutions, in Europeans invalidated to England after a long and useful public career abroad, and have experienced the difficulties and disappointments in the treatment of such cases, will peruse the observations of Sir R. Martin with great advantage, and glean from his experience many facts of importance; for few men, if any, in London have seen so much of the Indianized European constitution—generally a constitution worn out, comparatively early in life, by continued illness, or rendered prematurely old by long exposure and hard work.

We recommend the work to every medical practitioner. We feel satisfied that the interest its perusal will create will only be qualified by the fund of information and many subjects for reflection it will furnish to the reader.

Practical Medical Precepts for Plain People. By ALFRED FLEISCHMANN. London: Davies.

THIS neatly printed sheet is calculated to prove very useful in sickness or cases of accident. Its directions are simply and clearly expressed, and some of the sanitary hints are worthy attention at all times. Many a country practitioner especially would be glad if his patient or the nurse possessed the information this sheet affords; and a country clergyman would be doing good service to his cottage parishioners by distributing it amongst them, which its low price would enable him to do at a trifling expense.

New Inventions

IN AID OF THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

AN INSTRUMENT FOR ADMINISTERING THE VAPOUR OF CHLOROFORM THROUGH THE NOSE.

BY A. COLEMAN, ESQ., M.R.C.S.,

DENTAL SURGEON TO THE METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.

THE difficulty of keeping up the anæsthetic effects of chloroform in operations on the mouth induced Dr. Richardson to adopt the ingenious plan of administering this agent through the nose. The instrument here figured is one designed by Mr. Coleman for this purpose.

It consists, firstly, of that portion of Dr. Snow's portable apparatus which contains the bibulous paper to be saturated with chloroform; to this, an elastic tube, about ten inches long and of the same diameter as the instrument, is fitted, in the same simple manner as the face-piece of Dr. Snow. In the brass cap at the further extremity of the tube, a valve, opening

outwards, is inserted. To this cap also is attached the nose-piece—a silver tube flattened on its upper surface, and having soldered into its end, at a right angle, two smaller tubes of an oval form; these converge slightly towards each other at their extremities, and by means of a slide the distance between them may be diminished or increased. Just below the open extremity of the instrument, where the air enters and the chloroform is introduced, an elastic indiarubber bottle is connected, having a valve at each extremity opening towards the tube.

In using the instrument the patient may be brought under the influence of chloroform with the face-piece attached in the usual way; when the patient is sufficiently insensible, the face-piece is removed, and the tube with the nose-piece substituted, the smaller tubes of the latter being inserted into the nostrils. In consequence of the nostril-tubes being made to approximate, they can be adapted for persons of different ages, and, when inserted, by closing them the nose-piece is held in its proper place. It having been found, in some cases, that when the mouth is open the full effects of the chloroform cannot be kept up, the indiarubber bottle has been added, to enable the administrator to force a stream of air through the instrument into the patient's nose: by placing the thumb on the open extremity and compressing the bottle in the palm of the same hand, this object is readily accomplished. By simply closing the opening with the thumb, the action of the instrument is immediately suspended; by partially closing it, the effects are lessened. The valve in the tube prevents the return of air which has been respired, which escapes at the patient's mouth.

The design has been skilfully carried out by Messrs. Ferguson, of Giltspur-street.

PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY AND THE "MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL REVIEW."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having paid a good deal of attention to the subject of physiological chemistry, I was glad to see that the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, in its October number, contained an article on this subject, professing to be a review of Dr. Day's recent work. The reviews in this journal used frequently to be essays on the subject under discussion, rather than mere critiques, in the ordinary sense of the word; and I took up the article in question in the hope of deriving some useful information from it. In this hope I have been grievously disappointed, and the article is so different in its character from those which the *Review* formerly contained that I have taken the trouble to analyze it with some care, and I beg to send you my results.

In the first place, the article contains many phrases which are unintelligible, and many passages which are written in so execrable a style and taste that it is surprising they should have been admitted into any respectable journal. Secondly, it displays a great ignorance on the part of its writer of the ordinary literature of the subject. And thirdly, in more instances than one, it undoubtedly misrepresents the views and statements of the author whose book is made the subject of review.

I shall endeavour briefly to substantiate each of these points by one or two illustrations.

1. Can any of your readers tell me what is meant "simply by an ideal though practicable standard" which would leave a book "at a disadvantage;" or how the material of a work is to be "reproduced in a fluid form;" or what is the interpretation of such phrases as "sprung a leak on the word *organic*," or "all mediation towards the insight into the rational composition of albuminous bodies"? How can a book be better or "worse by reason of the exhibition of its greatest errors"? or how can a man "deceive himself and others by the effete dogma of biliousness"? What could the editor have been thinking of when he admitted into his journal so puerile a sentence as the following—"That glycine, sarkosine, and leucine should find themselves classed among the non-volatile alkaloids will no doubt cause considerable astonishment to these amido acids, particularly when they consider," &c.; or a long paragraph a little further on, teeming with "brushwood," "savory fruit on heavy branches," "bushes of fragrant flowers to refresh our senses"? He must surely have engaged a special reviewer to contribute "comic chemistry with floral illustrations."

2. When the reviewer objects (p. 412) to the division of the fatty acids into the *volatile* and the *solid*; when he states that "the incongruity of this arrangement is very striking," that "the man of the laboratory" would never adopt it, and that he "does not remember to have seen it before,"—he can hardly

be aware that Lehmann has adopted this arrangement, and that both Gorup-Besanez and Hoppe (the authors of the two best works on the analysis of the fluids and solids of the animal body) make the volatile acids a special class, notwithstanding his dictum that "relative volatility is no principle of classification."

When he tells us (p. 415) that he has "never heard of haloid bases," he is not aware that this admission shows that he is unacquainted with the best German writers on Physiological Chemistry and Physiology, such as Gorup-Besanez, Lehmann, Fick, &c.

Has he not forgotten himself when he tells us (p. 416) that "the term *resinous* is generally applied to substances which do not crystallize under any circumstances"? Let me quote for his benefit two lines from Prof. Gregory's Handbook, p. 347: "The resins as a class are acid bodies. . . . They dissolve in alcohol, and often crystallize from that solvent."

When he tells us that Dr. Day's "classification of uric acid is proved to be faulty by the usage of other authors," he must have overlooked the fact that it is precisely the same arrangement as is adopted by Gorup-Besanez, Lehmann, Frey, &c.

He would hardly have ventured on the bold assertion (p. 426) that "Schmidt's mode of analyzing blood is unreliable and unfeasible," and that he "thought it had by this time ceased to have any claim for being entitled a chemical proceeding," if he had known that Hoppe had recently (1858) expressed the following opinion:—"The method which C. Schmidt followed in his numerous analyses of the blood is irreproachable, and consequently all these analyses possess a permanent value."

I might give several other illustrations of similar ignorance, but these are probably sufficient to prove my case.

3. The reviewer observes (p. 419) that "it would puzzle the author, no doubt, were he called upon to obtain sarkosine by boiling, as he advises, creatine with *baryta water*." I cannot find in Dr. Day's book any *advice* regarding the mode of obtaining this substance; but if the reviewer had turned to the only paragraph devoted to sarkosine, he might have read that it "is only known as a product of the decomposition of creatine when acted on by *caustic baryta*."

At page 101, "we were utterly amazed," says the reviewer, "to find that the author really adhered to *proteine*." I find, on referring to the page indicated, that Dr. Day retains the term *proteine-compounds* as a convenient phrase for a definite class of compounds, precisely in the same manner and in the same sense as Strecker, Miller, Lehmann, Frey, Bence Jones, and Hofmann have done. It is difficult to believe, but it is nevertheless true, that the reviewer has founded his assertion upon the statement made by the author, that "great doubt has been thrown on Mulder's *proteine-theory*." If Dr. Day were to state, as he would be almost warranted in doing, that "great doubt had been thrown on the reviewer's accuracy and honesty," how would even the reviewer himself interpret the expression? Yet the two sentences are precisely equivalent.

I have no wish either to praise or to condemn Dr. Day's book; but I do not think that the criticism of the *Medico-Chirurgical* reviewer is of a character to influence any claims it may have on the consideration of the profession, or to advance our knowledge of physiological chemistry.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

January, 1862.

P.S.—I see that the January number contains a page (page 223) entirely devoted to analyses made by Schmidt, on precisely the same plan as those which were denounced in the October number as not having "any claim for being called a chemical proceeding." Does the Editor intend to hold by his October or his January view?

WHOLEsome ADVICE.—"Generally speaking," says the *Siecle*, "during winter, apartments are too much heated. The temperature in them ought not to exceed 15° Centigrade (59° Fahrenheit); and even in periods of great cold, scientific men declare that 12° or 14° had better not be exceeded. In the wards of hospitals, and in the chambers of the sick, care is taken not to have greater heat than 15°. Clerks in offices, and other persons of sedentary occupations, when the rooms in which they sit are too much heated, are liable to cerebral congestion and to pulmonary complaints. In bedrooms, and particularly those of children, the temperature ought to be maintained rather low; it is even prudent only rarely to make fires in them, especially during the night. In addition to keeping up only a moderate temperature, the windows of all rooms, whatever the weather, ought to be opened for a time every day, so as to renew the air."