In the introduction the writer says, "It must be generally admitted that, until very recent years, the published descriptions of the symptoms of spinal injuries have, except in the hands of a few observers, been so vague and indefinite, as to be almost valueless for the purpose of throwing light upon the more obscure questions of spinal pathology and physiology, or even of permitting an accurate diagnosis of the cases themselves." Bearing this in mind Dr. Thorburn has written a book in which the unimportant details are omitted; in which the careful, complete, and accurate observations that the author makes, and his logical conclusions and deductions therefrom, are expressed clearly and concisely; and which is a valuable addition to surgical literature.

H. P. DE FOREST.

ANILIN FARBESTOFFE ALS ANTISEPTICA UND IHRE ANWENDUNG IN DER PRAXIS. VON PROF. DR. J. STILLING, Erste Mittheilung.

ANILINE-DYES AS ANTISEPTICS AND THEIR USE IN SURGICAL PRACTICE. Strassburg, Karl J. Trubner, 1890; New York, G. E. Stechert; St. Louis, J. H. Chambers & Co.

This paper is divided into three parts and is preceded by an introduction.

The first part treats of bacteriological investigations as to the antiseptic value of the violet aniline stains, which were done with the assistance of Dr. J. Wortmann. It was observed that the addition of methyl-violet to a soil, in the concentration of 1 in 30,000, prevented the development of putrefactive micro-organisms. The development of *staphylococcus pyogenes aureus* on agar soils was prevented by a proportion of 1-64,000. A number of other experiments were also done.

The second part of the *brochure* contains the results of experiments on animals, 20 cubic centimetres (about $5\frac{1}{2}$ fluid drachms) of a 1 1000 solution of methyl-violet, free from arsenic, injected subcutaneously in rabbits and Guinea-pigs produces no deleterious effect; but half of this amount kills the animals when injected into the peritoneal

cavity, not by septic or any other form of inflammation but probably by coloring and paralysing important nerve-centres. The blood is not colored or poisoned by the stains. The animals may be fed with large quantities of the dye without detriment.

The third part of the monograph contains the therapeutic observations of the author. In all varieties of inflammatory affections of the eye, (keratitis, iritis serosa, choroiditis and sympathetic ophthalmia) he found much benefit from the use of the aniline and pronounces its effects far ahead of other antiseptics.

In surgery he healed a number of inflammatory conditions, such as an inflammation of the matrix of a toe-nail, commencing abscesses of the hands, burns and ulcers in an incredibly short time without operative interference.

In conclusion he opens a vista to the curing of all suppurative and ulcerative processes by these substances, and even sketches out a method of technique for use in operations, placing the instruments in weak solutions of the stain, and saturating the silk ligatures and dressings with stronger ones.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.