and armadillo-like creatures; whilst now it is occupied, apart from such animals as the horse, which has been lately introduced, with mere pignies. The illustrations by Mr. Pritchett, which are upwards of 100 in number, are excellent, and very materially add to the interest of the text. We can pay them no greater compliment than by saying that we wish their number had been doubled.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Jenner-Literatur: Catalog der Bibliothek. Von Dr. L. PFEIFFER in Weimar.—The enormous amount of literature that has arisen out of the discovery of vaccination since the days of Jenner is well represented in the valuable collection originated in 1830 by Dr. von Bulmerincq in Warsaw, and continued down to 1890 by Dr. L. Pfeiffer of Weimar, in whose possession the library now is. It contains upwards of 2000 volumes, monographs, essays, &c., upon variola, inoculation, and allied topics, as well as portraits and drawings; and it is proposed to dispose of it as a whole in the hope that it may find a permanent establishment as a memorial of the illustrious man whose ideas have borne such fruit. The collection is one of great value, and its acquirement by Jenner's countrymen would be fitting, if it were feasible.

Asthma, considered specially in relation to Nasal Disease. By E. SCHMIEGELOW, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.—The discovery by Professor Hack of the relationship between many cases of spasmodic asthma and nasal disease has been undoubtedly of great service in the successful treatment of the former affection. Comparatively little attention has been given to the subject in this country, and therefore we are grateful to the author of the work before us for producing an English edition of it. The argument is based on the conception of asthma as being a "bulbar neurosis," which may develop after debilitating circumstances, or may be excited by reflex irritations. Among the latter the nasal mucous membrane is a frequent seat, and local treatment of this tract may, in conjunction with general tonic measures, succeed in curing the tendency. For the development of this thesis we must refer to the work itself, which deserves careful study.

Home Nursing. By E. MARGERY HOMERSHAM, Lecturer for the National Health Society and Forsyth Technical College. London: Allman and Son.—We are glad to see a second edition of this excellent little handbook from the pen of so thorough and practical a nurse and so able a teacher as Miss Homersham. The book is published under the auspices of the National Health Society, and is an attempt to epitomise such knowledge as a nurse ought necessarily to possess for her guidance in the sick room. A good nurse is marked out by the amount of importance and weight which she attaches to those apparently trifling circumstances, the attention to, or neglect of which, in a sick room tends so much to soothe or to vex the sufferer. A special feature of Miss Homersham's work is the careful and scientific manner in which the necessity of attending to these innumerable details is set forth. The arrangement of the sick room and the details of nursing are indicated in a style at once attractive and instructive. In the present edition the chapter on diet has been enlarged, and many useful directions have been added in the way of preparing food for invalids. Chapter IV., on External Applications, such as poultices, mustard plasters, fomentations, blisters, and rubbing, is added in the present edition. Only they whose experience has shown them the stupendous ignorance which exists in many directions on this subject, and the fearful consequences resulting from the erroneous application of such remedies, can appreciate fully the attempts made by Miss Homersham to set forth

in a concise form knowledge which may be of the utmost consequence in periods of domestic trouble. Chapter VII., on the Complications which are likely to arise in the Course of a Disease, is especially worthy of attention. Miss Homersham's little book should occupy a place in every household library.

Barker's Facts and Figures, 1891. London: Fredk. Warne and Co.—A large body of information, chiefly statistical, upon matters of current and permanent interest has been brought together by Mr. Thomas P. Whittaker under this title. Handbooks of much the same general character have been greatly multiplied of late, and it is not easy to hit off in a word or a sentence the distinctive character of the present compilation. It is perhaps enough to say that it seems well adapted to take rank among standard books of reference relating to moral, social, economical, and political subjects.

Saint-Raphaël, with Valescure and Boulourie, as a Winter Health Resort. By HOWARD D. BUSS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond. St. Raphael: V. Chailan.—This is an unpretending little book, intended to point out the attractions of St. Raphael to those invalids who seek absolute seclusion and are regardless of such festivities as exist at Nice or Cannes. Mr. Buss claims that St. Raphael is well sheltered from the cold winds by the Esterel and Maure Mountains, but that this protection is so far removed as to avoid the stuffy closeness or stillness which characterises the more perfect wall of mountains at such a place as Mentone. Doubtless there is some point in these arguments, and they apply with great force when speaking of the early spring or late autumn. To those who have enjoyed the greater heat, the much more certain shelter of such places at Beaulieu, Petite Afrique, Monte Carlo, and Mentone—St. Raphael will be very useful as a breezy break before reaching northern climates. There are numerous pleasant excursions to be enjoyed in the neighbourhood, and to archæologists the Roman ruins at Fréjus will prove a great attraction. To such visitors the guide-book Mr. Buss has published will be acceptable.

The Insurance Year book, 1891. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Limited.—This compilation of insurance statistics will be chiefly interesting to those more immediately connected with the subject of insurance; but it is illustrated by a number of articles written for the general reader, and dealing in an elementary way with the principles of insurance in its various branches. The paragraphs devoted to the several offices give in a compendious and collected form statistical information which is thus brought into a very available form.

The Insurance Blue Book and Guide, 1890-91. London: Champness and Co.—This collection of insurance statistics is planned upon the method of putting its materials in tabular form, an arrangement which enables the facts to be exhibited very perspicuously, but makes the process of referring somewhat too laborious for the general reader.

New Inventions.

A NEW SAFETY CHLOROFORM INHALER.

ANY form of inhaler which will contribute to the safety of chloroform administration should be welcomed by the profession. The results of the Hyderabad Chloroform Commission, though questioned, still have directed more attention to the importance of watching the *respiration* equally if not more than the *pulse*. The illustration represents what I have named the "Safety Inhaler for Chloroform Administration," made for me by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London, who have taken a great deal of trouble to perfect my idea, the

main advantage being that every inspiration and expiration, however faint, will cause the valves through which the air must pass to produce a sound audible to the administrator, and so give immediate notice of danger both to himself and the bystanders at the operation. I find it a good plan to apply the mask with no chloroform in it at first, and allow the patient to breathe naturally through it for a few moments,

which establishes confidence and banishes a great deal of the nervousness usually met with. The cage of wire containing a small cup sponge being separate, the amount of chloroform considered advisable can be poured on and the receptacle (attached by bayonet joint) fixed in an instant without removing the mask from the face of the patient.

With nervous patients I consider it advisable, and it has always been my practice (where possible to do so), to give, half an hour previously to the operation, half a glass of a glass of whisky in a cup of hot milk, taken in mouthfuls, with a few minutes' interval. I have remarked when this is done the patient faces the ordeal more cheerfully, and there is (as a rule) no sickness of stomach or vomiting. I have always preferred chloroform to ether, having had personal experience of both. I think my inhaler, if given a fair trial, will be found a great saver of anxiety, if nothing else.

Dublin.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.R.C.P.I., &c.

APPARATUS FOR CLINICAL DETECTION OF MICRO-ORGANISMS IN BLOOD, SPUTUM, AND URINE.

It has occurred to me in the course of ordinary work that it would be very convenient, especially for those engaged in hospital practice, to have in a small compass and handy form all the materials necessary for the staining of micro-organisms in the excretions and in the blood. When the reagents are not thus gathered together there is often much time wasted in finding the particular ones required for a given investigation. At my suggestion Messrs. Ferris and Co. of Bristol have devised a small box which contains, conveniently arranged, the materials most commonly required. The box is of small size, so as to be easily carried about. Briefly, it contains the following:—Ziehl-Neelsen fluid, with solution of nitric acid for decolourising, and methylene blue solution for ground stain (tubercle bacilli); the materials for making the Weigert-Ehrlich fluid, which requires to be freshly made, and is one of the most generally useful staining fluids; Gram's solution of iodine and iodide of potash for use with the Weigert-Ehrlich fluid, and a solution of acetic acid (1·5) for use with the same staining fluid for the examination of blood after Gunther's method; the methylene blue is also very useful as a general stain for micro-organisms. The box also contains bottles of distilled water, absolute alcohol, and Canada balsam dissolved in xylol; vesuvium and Bismarck brown in powder to be dissolved in water as required for use; needles, pipettes, glass rod, forceps, glass measure of 10 cc. capacity; funnel and filter papers, watch glasses, test tubes, microscopic

slides and cover glasses. There is a spirit lamp and a box with close-fitting cover, in which the cover glasses can be left to dry. A support for carrying a watch glass above the lamp can be pushed out when the box is open. There is an extra bottle which has been purposely left empty for the addition of any particular fluid that the owner may desire in addition to those enumerated above. I think that the box contains everything that is

ordinarily required, and will be found a great convenience for the purposes for which it is intended. The box, fittings, and bottles are strongly made, and arranged so as to be portable, and to bear carrying about without injury.

Clifton.

J. MICHELL CLARKE, M.B., M.R.C.P.

Analytical Records.

ÆSCULAP HUNGARIAN NATURAL MINERAL WATER.

(THE ÆSCULAP BITTER WATER COMPANY, LIMITED, 51, FARRINGTON-STREET, E.C.)

Æsculap enjoys a world-wide reputation. This may be attributed in a great measure to the constancy which is exhibited from time to time in its composition. A recent analysis carried out in our laboratory practically agrees with that made some years since by the Government analyst of Buda Pesth, in which place the spring has its origin. The total solid constituents of one litre dried at 100° C. weighed 47 grammes. They were found to consist chiefly of the sulphates of sodium, magnesium, and calcium, with chloride and carbonate of sodium; while manganese and iron are present in quantities which may be regarded as more than mere traces.

COCA WINE.

(WATERS AND SON, 33, EASTCHEAP.)

Coca, it is now generally known, acts when given internally as a stimulant, tonic, and restorative. Whatever substance this action may be due to, chemists have shown the existence of two alkaloids in the plant—viz., cocaine and ecgonine, the former body of course being known as a local anæsthetic. The following are our analytical notes, which show the genuineness of the preparation under notice:—Ether, after being made alkaline with carbonate of soda, became tinged with green (chlorophyll), and on evaporation yielded a residue bitter to the taste and producing on the tongue the local anæsthetic effect of cocaine. Treated with hydrochloric acid characteristic crystals of hydrochlorate were identified under the microscope. Alcohol 14·45 per cent. by weight, 17·81 per cent. by volume; extractives 1·21 per cent.; mineral matter 0·53 per cent. The wine exhibits a mingled flavour of coca leaves and good port.

PEPTO-PAPAIN POWDER, LIQUOR, AND TABELLÆ.

(PERKINS & CO., 9A, PICCADILLY, W.)

It is stated that the advantage attaching to these preparations is that, by virtue of the papain contained in them,