large existing literature of this subject there is a distinct need" for yet another book, wherein old opinions and the views of authorities are too often served up again, embedded in a mass of fresh verbiage with scarcely one new idea throughout. The expression, "need" for another book, occurs in this work and this time we are inclined to agree with the author. Text-books on public health which contain full details and which are excellent for examination purposes exist in plenty; but for the ordinary student of medicine who has no time or inclination to devote to the study of a large work on public health and who yet is desirous of becoming familiar with the methods of ventilation, water-supply, the disposition of refuse, drainage, and school hygiene there has been, so far as we are aware, no really satisfactory book. In this little work students will find just what they really ought not to be ignorant of—rough-and-ready methods of softening water and of estimating the degree of impurity in respired air and in drinking-water. There are clear explanations of such ordinary meteorological instruments as the anemometer, the rain-gauge, and the barometer. We suggest that in the next edition there should be a *short* list of bibliographical references at the end of each chapter. At the end of the brief notice of cremation, for example, the reader will doubtless feel that the subject has been quitted too soon and that the author's presentation of it is too sketchy. The busy man can seldom attend at the medical library and wishes to waste no time in finding out what book he ought to read. A reference in this case to Sir Henry Thompson's recently published excellent book on cremation would be most useful. The present work has many merits; it is clearly and pleasantly written, is well arranged, and contains a great deal of useful and important information.

New Inventions.

STEREOSCOPE FOR X-RAY WORK.

THE illustration shows a new form of Wheatstone's stereoscope for x-ray work. The object of it is that negatives may be employed instead of prints, so that both time and trouble are saved, minute changes in structure of bone are much better demonstrated, and the light coming through the negative gives a better solid effect. It can also be used for prints if desired. It consists essentially of a black box with windows cut at each end, one side being covered by a black cloth to admit the head of the observer. Into the windows

are fitted the various sized frames for the different plates used and these are adjustable if the negatives do not quite correspond. Opal glass screens at each end reflect the light. The stereoscope negatives are placed in the frames at each end and examined in the mirrors in the ordinary way. The makers of this instrument are Messrs. Cox and Co.

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Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1824.

Foreign Department.

ON THE CURE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

[From Hufeland's Journal der praktischen Heilkunde.—March.]

Blisters under the tongue in hydrophobia, long known in Greece under the name of Lyssais. By Dr. XANTHOS, of Siphnus, in Greece.

At the end of January 1823, as many of my countrymen, compelled by the events which occurred in our country, were travelling from Russia through Germany to Marseilles, I saw one of them who came from Trapezunt, who had been bitten by a dog in Hanover.

He had a considerable wound in the middle of the right thigh, which pained him in walking. Notwithstanding my advice, that he should stop on his journey till the wound was healed, he insisted on setting out the same day with his countrymen, and took nothing with him but a little mild salve. Early in the month of May, I met this man again with 27 of my countrymen, in Zurich, and was happy to find the wound in a short time completely healed. The man said it was a lucky circumstance that the dog was not mad; upon which a Greek, from the Peloponnesus, considerably advanced in years, and well acquainted with the customs of our country, observed, that if the dog had been mad, it would not have been of much consequence, all that would have been necessary was to cut out the *Lyssais* as soon as possible; I immediately put the question to him, 'What do you mean by the *Lyssais*?' He replied, 'In persons who have been bitten by mad dogs, there appear on the ninth day, little blisters under the tongue, which we call *Lyssais*; these must be cut off with a sharp knife, and the bleeding suffered to continue till the poison is discharged.'

Acquainted with the information, which Dr. MAROCHETTI had communicated on this subject, I considered the testimony of this old Greek, extremely important. I inquired of my other countrymen, who had lived in various provinces of Greece, whether they were acquainted with this practice; most of them answered in the affirmative; some assured me that they had often witnessed it.

As my countrymen were too much dispersed in different places to enable me personally to obtain particular information on this subject from each of them, I sent certain questions from Heidelberg, and obtained from Aran, the following answer from Polychronis, a Thessalian.

"If a man is bitten by a mad dog, on the ninth day small blisters, called *Lyssais* appear under the tongue; they are about the size of a pea, some of them smaller! they are rather dark coloured, and look like flesh.—They are situated on the under side of the tongue, near the membranous band, particularly on the side of the veins. If you observe the tongue of a sound man, and then examine that of a man who has been bitten by a mad dog, you will immediately see the difference.

"As soon as these *Lyssais* are observed, they must be cut out with a sharp knife, and the bleeding continued, till the poison is discharged. If this is neglected, or deferred too long, as for instance till the twentieth day the brain becomes affected, and the patient will die in deplorable convulsions."

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CORNWALL.—At the meeting of the Royal Institution of Cornwall held at Truro on May 27th an interesting paper by Dr. John Beddoe on the history of the human bones recently found at Harlyn Bay, Cornwall, was read. Dr. Beddoe estimated that the stature of the people whose bones had been discovered was 64·5 inches and 61·2 inches for the male and female respectively. Dr. Beddoe added that the observations on the discoveries at Harlyn Bay went to swell the mass of evidence that the general population of Britain before the Christian era was not of tall stature.