MICRO-ORGANISMS AND DISEASE.*

It follows that where a comparatively new study, of great and far-reaching importance, commands the attention of so many earnest and competent workers, that the science of the subject is very actively progressive; and under these circumstances a text book requires frequent revision if it is to be kept up to date.

The appearance of the fourth edition of Dr. Klein's book is very welcome—more especially as the fact that the author, who has identified himself so much with the work of the past decade, should permit ten years to elapse since he wrote the third edition, had led many to believe, and to fear, that this manual was going to be allowed to drop out of circulation. This would have been a distinct loss to the student, for the general arrangement of the book is well conceived, the subject is treated at the same time lucidly and concisely, and a large amount of information is bound up in a handy form.

The many strides which bacteriology has made since the appearance of the last edition of this work—more especially in the direction of what one may term the “chemistry” of the subject and the application of serum-therapeutics to communicable disease—are all dealt with in the present volume; and if there is anything left to be desired, it is a little more extension, in some places, of the subject-matter which deals with technical details.

H. R. K.

SANITARY HOUSE DRAINAGE: ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE.†

The author presents in book form the series of articles on this important subject which he recently contributed to “The Building News,” and clearly sets forth the principles which should govern general design, and the construction in detail of House Drainage.

The first three chapters are devoted to general principles; then practical remarks on ventilation and the flushing of drains, followed by a consideration of the form and materials and the jointing of drain pipes; then details of laying drains, and inspection and intercepting chambers, continuing on soil, ventilating, and waste pipes, with some useful tables; and well illustrated pages on manhole covers, traps, sinks and gullies; then different types of water-closet apparatus are considered, and baths, housemaids' sinks and lavatories are next treated of; then urinals and latrines, and the author concludes a very practical, well written, and copiously illustrated little volume with two important chapters on testing new drains, and examining and testing old drains and sanitary appliances, his

* *Micro-organisms and Disease*, by E. Klein, M.D., F.R.S., Lecturer on General Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. 4th edition, 8vo., 595 pp. Macmillan & Co., London. Price 8s. nett.

† *Sanitary House Drainage: its Principles and Practice*. By T. E. Coleman, Surveyor R.E. Civil Staff. 186 pp. 8vo., 98 illustrations. E. & F. N. Spon, London; Spon & Chamberlain, New York. 1896. Price 5s.

remarks on which are very thorough and exceedingly practical. In his own words, "Whilst it is essential that every drain and sanitary fitment in all its details shall be properly designed and constructed in accordance with the recognized principles of sanitary science, so that the whole may be absolutely efficient when first constructed, —yet, in the interests of health, it is also desirable that they should be periodically examined and tested (say once a year) by a thoroughly qualified sanitary expert . . . the usual practice being to defer such examination until it is unmistakeably realised that some hitherto unnoticed defect has been the cause of serious illness or disease, and which, had it been discovered in time, might have been easily remedied"; conclusions to which no one can offer objection, and to no buildings do such remarks apply more pertinently than to our military establishments, thus this little work coming from a member of the Royal Engineer staff is doubly welcome. It will take a foremost place among works of similar character, "whose name is legion," and may be confidently recommended as a safe and useful book of reference for all those who are engaged either in the study or the practice of sanitation as applied to drainage of houses.

L. F.

NOTES ON BOOKS AND PAPERS IN TRANSACTIONS.

"Report of the Committee for Testing Smoke-Preventing Appliances." *Manchester*, 1895. *Price* 5/-.

This Report and the formation of the Committee is the outcome of a suggestion of the Chief Inspector under the Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Act (Mr. A. E. Fletcher), in his report for the year 1888, and of correspondence which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*.

The Manchester and Salford Noxious Vapour Association organised meetings in Manchester and other large towns, with the result that a Committee was formed, with the Right Hon. Lord Egerton of Tatton as President. The scope of the work proposed to be carried out was as follows:—

To carry out practical examinations and tests, do produce, or are accompanied by—

- (a) Practical freedom from smoke.
- (b) Reasonable amount of duty.
- (c) Economy of fuel.
- (d) Moderate cost in wear and tear, and simplicity of construction.
- (e) Moderate cost of application.

The Report consists principally of tables recording the results of the investigations carried out by the Committee.