tan's advice upon this subject were generally followed there would be fewer cases of bowel resection, of perforation, and of reduction of gangrenous bowel.

J. H. G.

ECZEMA AND ITS CONGENERS: Their Pathology and Bacteriology, with Some Improvements in Their Treatment. By EDWARD BLAKE, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, etc. London: Henry J. Glaisner, 1902. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

THE title of this little book would naturally lead one to expect a treatise upon eczema and kindred affections, but an examination of its contents shows it to be made up of rather disjointed remarks upon a great variety of subjects not always very nearly related. Eczema, urticaria, herpes, gout, chorea, the teeth, and worms are some of the subjects discussed. Some of the author's statements would be very interesting if true; as, for example, it is stated in the preface that dental bacteria are among the commonest causes of eczema.

Buckley's investigations concerning the urine in eczema are referred to as supporting the view that this malady is a constitutional one. As we interpret this investigator's results, they prove, if they prove anything, that there is absolutely no constant relation between the composition of the renal excretion and this disease.

Minute doses of croton oil or dulcamara are said to be very valuable in the treatment of impetigo contagiosa. Even if these remedies were as useful as claimed, which we doubt very much, it seems a rather roundabout way to treat a strictly local affection which is usually curable in a few days by local treatment.

The author introduces a new remedy for the treatment of eczema, viz.: formalin, which he has used with benefit in one case—a rather limited experience.

The book is not a very illuminating contribution to our knowledge of eczema; it is difficult to consider it as a serious attempt to discuss an important subject.

M. B. H.

THERAPEUTICS, PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, CLIMATOLOGY, AND FORENSIC MEDICINE. By GEORGE F. BUTLER, M.D., HENRY B. FAVILL, M.D., NORMAN BRIDGE, M.D., and HAROLD N. MOYER, M.D. Practical Medicine Series of the Year Book. Vol. VII. Edited by GUSTAVUS P. HEAD, M.D. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers.

WE cannot recommend too highly this collection of short abstracts from the most recent literature upon the above-named subjects. The section devoted to Materia Medica and Therapeutics, occupying more than half of the total number of pages comprising the volume, is most interesting and instructive. In this collection the investigator may find an abundance of suggestions for further original work, and the busy practitioner valuable hints as to treatment. The chapter upon Climatology we would consider of great general value, giving, as it does, the temperature range, general climate, altitude, etc., of the regions most often