

BOOKS AND REPORTS REVIEWED

Syphilis and Public Health. *Edward B. Vedder, A. M., M. D., Lieutenant-Colonel, Medical Corps, U. S. Army. Published by Permission of the Surgeon-General, U. S. Army. Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1918. Cloth, p. 315. Price, \$2.25.*

No problem of preventive medicine compares in interest and importance with the prevention of venereal diseases. This is especially true at this time when the war experience of the Allied Nations has shown the menace of these diseases to military efficiency, and reemphasized their constant threat to the human race. Colonel Vedder's experience as an army surgeon has given him practical knowledge of army methods of control, whereby venereal disease in army life has been reduced to a minimum. His book is therefore addressed to the medical profession and to health authorities and is a plea for the application to civil life of the measures proven so successful in army life.

For the person interested in statistics, the author has compiled in brief and readable form all the statistical data available on venereal diseases; for the busy physician he has made clear the path of duty to venereal patient and society; for the health officer he has outlined plainly the only plan of preventive attack thus far that has tangible results to its credit.

The book is easily the best among the many recently published upon this subject. It is well written and timely and deserves the consideration of any one interested in the prevention of venereal diseases.

In an appendix the author describes the technic of the Wasserman reaction and includes the full text of the Australian law for venereal disease control, which is the model for most of the laws and regulations now being adopted throughout the United States.

W. F. King, M. D.

Farmers' Clean Milk Book. *Charles Edward North, M. D. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1918. Pp. 132. Price, \$1.00.*

"This book shows why some milk contains millions of bacteria and how they get into it and how easy it is to keep them out." This substantially is the text taken by the author in presenting his viewpoint of the essential subject of clean milk production. The style is lucid, simple and attractive. The farmer is shown in a practical manner the dif-

ference between successful and money-losing dairying, and the lesson is taught that cleanliness, care and oversight, as applied to milk production, have a commercial value, an argument which appeals when others might fail.

The importance of bacteria to milk is presented in such a manner as to create both interest and endeavor for increased safeguards. The human element and methods, and not elaborate and expensive equipment, are shown to be the prime factors for good milk production. The farmer is also made to realize the value of ice, cold water, steam and hot water to his industry.

The path of the dairy inspector in his dealings with the farmer might have been made smoother had the author pointed to the fact that the endeavor of these officials has been one of coöperation for better things in the production of milk. Had it not been for these efforts, doubtless this commendable and progressive work would not have been written. Dr. North's condemnation of the score card will meet the approval of many officials and farmers, even though the comparison of the score card and strainer cloth as "dangerous instruments in the dairy business" may not be fully sanctioned as to the latter by the farmer. Possibly the final chapter would carry a greater appeal if the word "good" were substituted for "Grade A," in the title, "Essentials for Grade A Milk Production."

Dr. North's work is elementary, but concise and complete, and many milk producers would benefit financially by following its teachings. It will have an important bearing in improving dairy methods, and is entitled to wide circulation.

James O. Jordan.

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The Hospital as a Social Agent in the Community

Lucy C. Catlin, R. N., Director of Social Service Work and Executive Director of the Out-Patient Department of Youngstown Hospital, Ohio. 113 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Cloth \$1.25, net.

Miss Catlin's book is an indication of the rapidity with which a sense of community needs has penetrated into the medical work of hospitals. It is only twelve years ago since the first social service Department in the United States was founded at the Massachusetts General Hospital, by Dr. Richard C. Cabot. Now, about 300 of the leading hos-