

ART. XLIV.—*A Report to the Surgeon-General on the Transport of Sick and Wounded by Pack Animals.* By GEORGE A. OTIS, Assist. Surg. U. S. A. 4to., pp. 32. Government Printing-Office, Washington, D. C., 1877.

THIS very curious pamphlet contains descriptions and wood-cuts of an enormous variety of devices for carrying disabled men in the absence of wheeled vehicles. Two general kinds of horse-litters have found most favour in our army. One is the two-horse litter, essentially made of two long poles with an animal harnessed between them at each end, and the patient placed on a sacking or other connecting medium between the middle portions of the poles. The other consists in various modifications of the Indian "travois" or "travail." This is as if, in the arrangement just described, the rear horse was removed and the poles allowed to drag on the ground. The Dakotas place the burden in a sort of basket, fastened athwart the poles; but in the army the soldier is placed with his head towards the horse. The elasticity of the poles renders the motion much easier than would be at first supposed. In crossing streams the ends can be lifted by an attendant. This latter apparatus seems to have been found most useful in our campaigns against the Indians. One reason is, that tent-poles, lariats, and blankets are always at hand, and no elaborate appliances are liable to be lost or left behind. Economy of horses or mules is another advantage, as compared with the two-horse litter. We doubt if the very complicated devices which have been introduced in other armies will ever be practically available under the circumstances of Indian warfare.

B. L. R.

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ART. XLV.—*The Mortality of Surgical Operations in the upper Lake States, compared with that of other regions.* By EDMUND ANDREWS, A.M., M.D., Professor of Surgery in Chicago Medical College, assisted by Thomas B. Lacey, M.D. 8vo., pp. 123. Chicago: Hazlitt & Reed, 1877.

THIS laborious work is a reprint from the *Chicago Medical Journal and Examiner*, and the statistics which form its basis appear to have been compiled with great care. The cases are classified in seventeen tables. Those from the Lake States, by which the comparison is instituted, were obtained by personal application to men of known probity and acknowledged position in the profession; it being thought that experience thus obtained would possess a much higher value than would attach to miscellaneous answers obtained in response to a general circular, or the compilation of reported cases in journals, which are so apt to illustrate chiefly favourable results. Comparing cases thus obtained with the published tables of standard authorities, a very favourable showing is found to follow the surgery of the Lake States. Only in Sir James Simpson's statistics of cottage hospitals are equally favourable figures found, and upon those statistics Dr. Andrews very properly looks with suspicion.

Beyond the uncrowded condition of western towns and cities, with the consequently favourable hygienic surroundings, there does not seem to be any reason assigned for the successful results obtained by the surgeons of the Lake States. For we can hardly suppose that a higher grade of skill is possessed by the surgeons of that region than exists elsewhere. Most of the capital operations are included in Dr. Andrews's tables, and in them will be found answers to many general inquiries. The presentation of brief summaries of the views of different

authors of reputation is a valuable feature in this pamphlet. The reader can see at a glance the different views entertained by writers, and very often the statistics upon which their opinions are based. For this work, laboriously, and we think faithfully, done by Dr. Andrews, the thanks of the profession are due, and his brochure will, without doubt, relieve many from much fatiguing investigation.

S. A.

ART. XLVI.—*Yellow Fever and Malarial Diseases—embracing a History of the Epidemics of Yellow Fever in Texas; New Views on its Diagnosis, Treatment, Propagation, and Control; Descriptions of Dengue, Malarial Fevers, Joundice, the Spleen and its Diseases, and Diarrhœa Hemorrhagica; with Practical Remarks on their successful Treatment, etc.* By GREENVILLE DOWELL, M.D., Professor of Surgery in Texas Medical College, etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 241. Philadelphia: Medical Publication Office, 1876.

WE have looked over this book carefully without discovering in what respect Dr. Dowell's views of the pathology, diagnosis, and treatment of yellow fever can be regarded as at all novel. Of diagnosis and pathology he has surprisingly little to say; the lesions which the disease produces being alluded to only in the most cursory way. This omission is the more remarkable as he has borrowed from Blair's work, for the illustration of his, two plates representing, 1st, the common appearance of the liver in yellow fever; 2d, hyperæmia of the intestines with points of extravasation. More certainly might be said of diagnosis by one who does not hesitate to lay claim to unusual skill in this branch of our art, being always, if we may trust his own statements, the first to recognize the presence of the scourge in the town where he happened to be practising at the time of its outbreak. His skill in diagnosis must have indeed been great, since in one case it rested principally upon the fact that the patient, who was under the care of another physician, fainted in crossing a yard.

The two prescriptions upon which he seems to have relied principally in the treatment of yellow fever were, 1st, one containing three grains each of sulphate of quinia, calomel, and Dover's powder, which he directs shall be repeated every three hours as long as the fever lasts; 2d, a mixture consisting of morphia, brandy, and creosote, which he gives specially for its power to allay sickness of stomach. At the same time the patient is to be kept in bed, lightly covered, not being allowed to get up even to stool. He condemns, on the other hand, the use of hot drinks and of all remedies calculated to produce excessive sweating, which he regards as a source of exhaustion. These directions he reiterates throughout the book until they become wearisome, even repeating the exact formulæ for the prescriptions above referred to as many as six times. The author's style is, moreover, rambling and exceedingly inelegant. In addition to numerous reports of different epidemics from medical officers of the United States Marine-Hospital Service and other gentlemen, which make up a large part of the book, it also contains a "Table of localities in the United States where yellow fever has appeared since A. D. 1668, with their elevations above the sea level; dates of commencement and suspension of the disease; mortality; and authorities for the statements;" which appears to have been worked up with a good deal of care.

J. H. H.