

that below the smaller apertures in which the pulsation of the brain was seen without protrusion, the dura mater and the brain were quite unchanged. The narration of the cases was accompanied with many valuable practical comments upon the rarity of these two affections, their modes of production, and, in the latter case especially, the probable nature of the exciting constitutional cause. The communication was illustrated by many pathological preparations of the parts involved.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Diary of the Crimean War. By FREDERICK ROBINSON, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon Scots Fusilier Guards. Svo, pp. 443. London: Bentley.

DR. ROBINSON was with his regiment, on service in the East, from the 18th of March, 1854, when it reached Malta, until after the fall of Sebastopol. He gives, in his Diary, a most interesting account of much that he did and saw, not only during the eventful campaign in the Crimea, but at Constantinople, Varna, and other places. The work is most interesting, as portraying, with all the freshness of writing on the spot, the impressions made upon the author's mind by the scenes and events around and about him. The details respecting the health and sickness of our army, during the dreadful trials to which it was exposed, are given with much graphic power. We commend Dr. Robinson's Diary to the attention of his professional brethren, and quote his concluding observations.

"The contrast, in every point of view, between the condition of the troops at the termination of the year 1855, contrasted with that of the preceding, cannot fail to be forcibly brought to the minds of all who witnessed the sad sufferings of the first period. A perfect organization and working of the numerous important departments incidental to an army in an enemy's country, I apprehend, can scarcely be looked for under any circumstances, for unforeseen contingencies must arise to interfere with preconcerted arrangements, however carefully planned. On this subject, others are more conversant and competent to judge. Neither am I in a position to speak decisively as to the health of the army at present. Taking my own corps and the other two regiments of Guards as examples, I conceive the ratio of sickness at this time to be less (from disease generally) than would probably have been the case had the men been quartered in London, or any other town at home. The cases have been few in my battalion, in which grave diseases appeared to me attributable either to the climate or mode of life, apart from other exciting and predisposing causes. From one class of disease, notoriously the most fatal in troops on home service,—particularly in the Household Brigade,—experience has shown, I think, indisputably, that very few cases have originated in the Crimea. I allude to consumption. Why this should be so in a climate in which the variableness of temperature is most sudden and striking is a difficult problem to solve, and I need not here enter into its discussion. Apart from local causes—some necessarily dependent on, and arising from, a soldier's life in camp—I venture to record my belief that, were the ordinary habits and precautions of civilised life adopted, few, if any, parts of Europe would be found more conducive to health than the portion of the Crimea now occupied by the Allies. That the diseases which decimated the army during the siege were attributable to the trials it has been my sad task to chronicle in the foregoing pages, and only contingently, on vicissitudes of climate, remediable by ordinary means,—the experience of the present winter has already strongly tended to prove.

"Before concluding, I may express a hope that the services of the Medical Staff Corps, newly organized, may be found the means of preserving many valuable lives on the field of battle. Hitherto the number of men, and means of transporting wounded, placed at the disposal of medical officers, have been totally inadequate. At the Alma, all the stretchers and bearers (drummers) of my regiment were employed during the first few moments of the action, and before the river was crossed. At Inkermann, I have proved how necessary it is that ambulances should be of the lightest construction consistent with their use, and drawn by strong animals. I think the *Cacolets* of the French preferable, as a more convenient and quicker mode of conveying the wounded a short distance."

On the Harrogate Spas, and Change of Air: exhibiting a Medical Commentary on the Waters, founded on Professor Hoffman's Analysis. A new and enlarged Edition. By G. WEST PIGGOTT, M.A., M.D. Cantab. London: Churchill. Harrogate: Palliser. Small 8vo, pp. 280.

THIS is a useful little handbook for those who may be resorting to the Harrogate springs and baths, as it not only points out the constitution of the waters of that locality, and the maladies for which their employment has been recommended, but it also diverges into histories and descriptions of the neighbourhood and of baths in general, almost treating *de omnibus rebus*, &c., and of subjects very well calculated to amuse and interest the leisure of an invalid. The waters of Harrogate, as the author has stated, may be arranged into four distinct classes—viz., the pure chalybeate springs, the saline chalybeates, the mild sulphureous, and the strong sulphureous springs. Each of these is separately described, and at the end of the work is an analytical table of their mineral contents by Professor Hoffman. At p. 277 Dr. Piggott publishes an extract from a letter sent to him by a physician of eminence, who writes:—"I really think that a work of the kind you have produced was needed by us all, as sadly too little has been known of the Harrogate waters. Patients are often sent, even by medical men, to Harrogate, without knowing the why or wherefore." Dr. Piggott's treatise is adapted to render medical practitioners amply acquainted with the peculiarities of the Harrogate springs, and thereby to enable them to judge of cases in which a resort to Harrogate should be recommended in preference to other English spas.

Observations sur la Fausse et la Réelle Hydrophobie, et d'autres Maladies des Chiens. Bruxelles: J. H. Briard. Pamphlet.

THE brochure before us is addressed to the Central Society of Agriculture in Belgium, by the foreign secretary of the Animals' Friend Society in London. The author states that true hydrophobia is a rare disease, and that a slight gastritis, or else an inflammation of the cesophagus, to which dogs are very subject, is often mistaken for it, but might usually be cured readily by rest, plenty of cold water, and a dose of purgative medicine. He recommends that a suspected animal should by no means be destroyed, but, as well as any animal bitten by it, ought to be kept secured for a period, by which means, in the great majority of cases, much unnecessary terror would be dissipated by a proof of the non-existence of true hydrophobia, and many valuable animals would thereby be preserved. Muzzles for dogs he altogether condemns, as they hinder the animals from obtaining with ease a sufficiency of water for their benefit. Some practical remarks on the treatment of dogs in this little pamphlet deserve praise.

New Inventions

IN AID OF THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

ESSENTIAL OIL OF BITTER ALMONDS FREED FROM PRUSSIC ACID.

THE possibility of depriving the essential oil of bitter almonds of the hydrocyanic acid with which it is united in the raw state has long been known, yet this oil, so extensively used by confectioners and others to flavour pastry and similar articles, is still, for the most part, sold contaminated with prussic acid, which adds no advantage in point of odour, and at the same time renders the essence highly dangerous in inexperienced hands. Mr. Langdale, essential oil and drug merchant, of 72, Hatton-garden, has, however, forwarded to us a sample of essential oil of bitter almonds, manufactured by him, which is professedly free from hydrocyanic acid. It is a colourless fluid,