

parasite, and it is, therefore, necessary that the seeds, if they are to produce new plants, should find their resting place in the crevices of the bark of their host. The tinker bird makes a meal of the coverings of the berries, but does not eat either the seeds or the viscid matter in which they are embedded. To get the skin of the berry free from what it contains, he bangs the berry against the bark of the tree where the viscid substance enables the seeds to adhere.

* * *

In the case of other berries, such as currants, etc., which the birds devour as a whole, it would at first appear as though the birds prevented rather than assisted in the multiplication of plants. The loss of the seed so eaten is, however, in many cases only apparent. The bird has no teeth to grind the seeds, and they are sufficiently hard to resist being digested, so that they are ultimately rejected, and probably at a greater distance from the parent plant where the conditions may be more favourable to growth.

Reviews.

"Round the Red Lamp," by A. Conan Doyle. (Methuen & Co.)—This is a collection, according to the sub-title, of "Facts and Fancies of Medical Life"; and it has certainly the novelty that it is written by a medical man. The modern novelist is so fond, especially the lady members, of afflicting their heroes with divers and terrible fits at opportune moments, or their heroines with various diseases unknown to the College of Physicians, and the symptoms of which remind one of nothing so much as what the poor people call a "complication disease," that it is satisfactory to find medical facts and fancies in a novel imbued with a distinctly medical flavour. Several of the stories are considerably above the average of modern novels, and all of them contain something that will be interesting to Medical men and Nurses. For pathos, indeed, we have read few stories to compare with "A Straggler of '15," the tale of the Corporal who distinguished himself so greatly at the Battle of Waterloo by bringing up the ammunition waggons through burning hedges at a critical moment, and who was the last survivor of the Third Guards. His death scene is well worth quoting:—

"He lay peacefully, his eyes half closed, his hands under his cheek, as one who is very weary. They had left him for an instant . . . when, of a sudden, they heard a shout that rang through the house, loud and clear and swelling it pealed in their ears, a voice full of strength and energy and fiery passion.

'The Guards need powder,' he cried, and yet again, 'The Guards need powder' . . .

There was the old man standing up, his blue eyes sparkling, his white hair bristling, his whole figure towering and expanding, with eagle head, and glance of fire. 'The Guards need powder,' he thundered once again, 'and by God they shall have it.'

He threw up his long arms and sank back with a groan into his chair. The Serjeant stooped over him, and his face darkened.

'Oh, Archie, Archie,' sobbed the frightened girl, 'what do you think of him?'

The Serjeant turned away. 'I think,' said he, 'that the Third Guards have a full muster now.'

Of thorough-going gruesome weirdness, the story of an Egyptian mummy, which apparently attempted to commit several murders and various other criminal acts, is a remarkable example, and we commend "Lot No. 249" to any who require a new sensation. We will not spoil the story by telling it, but would only express our belief that the medical student 'Abercrombie Smith' came very well out of the affair.

We can strongly recommend the book, not only to Medical men and Nurses, but to all who desire to read of medical Facts and Fancies from a strictly medical point of view.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

PINE TAR SOAP.

It has been truly said that of the making of soaps there is no end. But Ludovic Pine Tar Soap can, at any rate, claim to have the merit of considerable originality, and it undoubtedly is the best article of its kind with which we have met. It is largely impregnated with the essential elements of pine tar, and, therefore, has a most pleasantly fragrant odour in addition to being strongly antiseptic; qualities which, combined, are unfortunately rare. We have employed the soap and find it excellent, as well as agreeable to invalids, and, therefore, both for its usefulness and its fragrantcy, we can confidently commend it to the notice of our readers. It can be obtained through any Grocers, or direct from A. Ludovic, Margate Soap Works, Margate.

ROWLANDS' KALYDOR.

Amongst the hundreds of new cosmetic preparations which are constantly being introduced, and only a few of which we have been able, in these columns, to recommend, Rowlands' Kalydor, which was one of the first of its kind, still maintains its popularity with the public. Its delightful fragrance and cooling and soothing effects, render it most useful as a toilet preparation, and as a curative agent for chapped or roughened skins. At this time of the year, especially, such a preparation is necessary, and those who use this will probably rarely, if ever, suffer from the baleful effects which East winds and the rapid alterations of temperature of our English climate usually produce upon delicate integuments. A very important advantage possessed by Kalydor has been proved both by chemical analysis of the fluid and by the experience of the thousands of persons who have employed the cosmetic during the past forty years; namely, that Kalydor contains no dangerous or deleterious compounds. This is especially important in view of the fact that so many cosmetic washes, at the present day, contain poisonous quantities of arsenic or mercury.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)