

Professional Review.**THE MEDICAL ANNUAL, 1899.**

"The Medical Annual" for 1899, published by Messrs. Wright, of Bristol, and Simpkin, Marshall, and Hamilton Kent, and Co., Ltd., London, is an interesting publication. Its object is to give, in a handy form, a summary of the practical work done in the various departments of medicine and surgery during the past year. It deals with (1.) Therapeutics, including new remedies, practical X Ray work, Electro Therapeutics, and the Climatic and Open-air Treatment of Phthisis; (2.) New Treatment; (3.) Miscellaneous, including Legal Decisions, Sanitary Science, Medical and Surgical Appliances, and Dietetic Preparations. Then follows a list of Books of the Year, Ambulance and Nursing, Anatomy and Physiology, Bacteriology and Chemistry, and so on. Next is a list of the Lunatic and Idiot Asylums, and Inebriate Homes, Private Homes, Nursing Institutions and Associations, and, lastly, "The Medical Annual Official and Trade Directory."

THERAPEUTICS.

One of the chief events of the year has been the publication of a new British Pharmacopœia. It is important that nurses should know something of this, as is evidenced by fact that the official strength of morphia for hypodermic injection is less than half of the 1885 Pharmacopœia.

A sign of the times is that in this new Pharmacopœia charcoal, linseed, and mustard poultices are no longer official.

Many additions have been made, amongst them dry thyroid, and liquor thyroidei mark a new departure.

Much interest also centres round the work that has been done in relation to antitoxic serums, it is of supreme interest to inhabitants of tropical regions that anti-venomous serum can now be produced which will cause passive immunity to venomous snake bites.

Other therapeutic agents, which have come into considerable prominence, are Massage and Electricity, the latter being, at present, in its infancy. Baths, the therapeutic value of which, until quite recently, remained unrecognized in this country, though they have been much used on the Continent. Suggestion, which undoubtedly has a dangerous as well as a beneficial side, and the Open Air Treatment of Phthisis which has recently aroused such widespread public interest.

The practical X Ray work is of great interest, as by its means diagnoses, which before were of extreme difficulty, or impossible, are now made comparatively easy. For instance, many obscure conditions of organs of the thorax, such as a displacement of the heart in pleurisy, which may not be recognizable by other means, is now possible.

With regard to the open-air treatment of Phthisis, the following rules are laid down by Dr. Léon Petit. "The best climate is that which restricts the least, the daily duration of the patient in the open-air." (1.) Pure air is indispensable, and therefore proximity to towns, or factories giving forth soot, dust, or deleterious gases must be avoided. (2.) The soil on which the sanatorium is built should be sandy. (3.) An elevated site, with a gentle slope is indicated, as extensive views exert a beneficial influence on the mind and body. (4.) Access to the sanatorium should be easy, it should therefore not be far from a railway station.

(To be continued.)

Preparations, Inventions, etc.**A SANITARY MATTRESS.**

WE have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the mattresses made by the Sanitary Mattress Co., Ltd., of London Street, London, E.C. The mattresses are not filled with hair, but with a patent material, which has, amongst others, the following advantages. It is impervious to damp, it is vermin proof, it is thoroughly sterilized and odourless, and it can be re-made again and again. It is of a delightfully springy nature, and any persons who obtain a sample of this material will, we think, in future desire to have their beds filled with it, instead of with hair in conjunction with sundry and diverse other commodities not easily diagnosed and far from attractive. One great advantage of the sanitary mattress for nursing purposes is that the more it is baked the better for it. Probably it is for this reason, amongst others, that it is being widely adopted by many large London Hospitals, by Asylums, Schools, and Railway and Steamship Companies. The prices of these mattresses is most moderate, varying in those 6 ft. 6 in. long from 22s. for one 2 ft. wide, to 53s. 6d. for one of 5 ft. in width. We venture to predict a prosperous and popular future for this Sanitary Mattress, as it combines all the desirable essentials, being moderate in price, clean in composition, and durable in wear. Hospital Matrons who are providing new mattresses, or replacing old, in the wards, should certainly inspect this mattress.

"TABLOID" KRAMERIA AND COCAINE.

THE value of Rhatany in combination with Cocaine in the treatment of certain affections of the throat is well known, and has received official recognition. In relaxed sore throat, irritable conditions of the pharynx, bronchorrhœa, etc., this "Tabloid" preparation enables the physician to secure the astringent and tonic properties of Krameria with the sedative action of Cocaine. "Tabloid" Krameria and Cocaine possesses marked advantages over gargles, in that it is portable, and thus conduces to regular treatment when the patient is pursuing his ordinary daily avocation. Its effect is not transitory, but continuous, because, as it slowly dissolves in the mouth, it bathes the affected parts with a concentrated solution, the therapeutic effect of which is quickly evident. In pleasantness and palatability it is in no way inferior to lozenges and similar preparations, which are not so effective and rapid in their action. "Tabloid" Krameria and Cocaine is supplied in boxes of 30, and in bottles of 100.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)