

Professional Review.

"THE MODERN PHYSICIAN."

Of making many books there is no end, but certainly, in spite of the numberless books presented to nurses for their consideration and information, it would be hard to find one in which the pains taken in the production of "The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson, F.R.S.E., assisted by a staff of expert contributors, have been surpassed. The type is large and easy to read; the sub-heading standing out in bold black letters. The illustrations are excellent. The book is being produced in five volumes by the Caxton Publishing Company, 84, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., and has already attracted considerable attention in nursing circles.

Its object, as set forth by the author in the preface, is "to present the reader with a scientifically correct, but at the same time popularly written, manual of domestic medicine. It also aims at imparting reliable information concerning hygiene or the due control of health, through the knowledge of the laws which represent the practice of healthy living and the prevention of disease." It will commend itself to those who have entered, as well as those who are thinking of entering, the nursing profession by its freedom from scientific terms, with which it is unnecessary they should be burdened, while yet clearly describing conditions which it is essential they should understand. Thus speaking of the necessity of a knowledge of the laws of health, and of the causes of disease, the author gives as an illustration the case of tuberculosis, which may affect almost every organ of the body, and, in regard to the lungs, is popularly known as "consumption."

"Not so very long ago consumption was believed to be of hereditary nature—that is to say, a consumptive father or mother was regarded as being likely to hand on the ailment, and to transmit the disease to his or her children. The cause of the disease was then unknown. It was regarded, moreover, as an ailment difficult, and in many cases impossible, to cure.

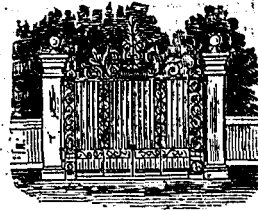
"Owing to the discovery of the germ or microbe of tuberculosis by Dr. Robert Koch, the whole complexion of this ailment was altered. In the first instance, with the knowledge of its exact cause, physicians became enabled to point out ways and means of prevention. In the second place, founding their practice on similar grounds, means of cure were tried and adopted, one of the most important of these being what is known as the 'open-air treatment.' The discovery of the germ of tuberculosis has, therefore, had the effect of enabling us to attack and successfully fight this disease from two points of vantage. To-day the opinion is universally held that each case of consumption practically represents a case of infection; if infection be prevented, the disease can in this way be limited or altogether abolished."

The sources of infection and the methods of combating them, as well as the conditions which are demanded for the cure of the disease are then described, the whole subject being thus clearly placed before the reader with a remarkable freedom from technical terms.

It may safely be predicted that the book will be a popular one.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The employment of women in official positions is undoubtedly increasing, and the careers open to them cover a considerably wider field than was the case ten or fifteen years ago. In many instances, as, for example, that of the Home Office lady inspectors, the work to be done, it is now recognised, practically requires the employment of a woman. In others, however, the two sexes have met on equal terms, and the woman has gained the prize because she has shown herself the "best man for the post." An interesting instance of this has just occurred in the case of Miss Philippa Garrett Fawcett, whose brilliant success fifteen years ago, when she was placed above the senior wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, did much to advance women's claims to equal treatment with man in the educational field. The County Council recently advertised for a principal assistant in the Education executive officer's department to undertake certain work in connection with higher education and the training of teachers and scholarships. Four hundred and eighty-six candidates applied for the position, which is worth £400 a year rising to £600. Three candidates, two of whom were gentlemen, were finally selected as the most suitable for the position, and the Education Committee decided to recommend the Council to appoint the lady candidate, Miss Fawcett, and she was elected on Tuesday last. Lady applicants have also met with success in regard to the twenty local assistant medical officers in the Education branch of the Public Health Department whom it was recently decided to appoint. Three hundred and ten candidates applied, and of the twenty whose names are recommended for appointment six are women. The salary is £150 a year, and the appointments are restricted in the first instance to one year, renewable at the pleasure of the Council for not more than two years.

A conference was recently held at 10, Downing Street, by kind permission of the Prime Minister, between members of the executive committee of the Victoria League and representatives of the league's allied associations in the colonies. The Countess of Jersey presided, and offered a cordial welcome to members from the colonies, emphasising the importance, in carrying on the league's work, of having the close co-operation of as many people as possible in the distant parts of the Empire. The Hon. Mrs. A. Lytton called the attention of the conference to the educational work of the league, and suggested that the colonies might help in the work by the formation of corresponding committees, whose members should include the educational authorities in the different countries. Miss Georgina Frere spoke of the splendid work and co-operation of the different colonies in taking care of the soldiers' graves in South Africa. Miss Violet Markham indicated the future work of the recently formed industrial committee of the League, in tabulating the present factory laws of the different countries throughout the Empire.

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