

## Professional Review.

## A GUIDE TO URINE TESTING.

WE have received from Messrs. J. Wright & Co., Bristol, a copy of "A Guide to Urine Testing for Nurses and Others," by Mr. Mark Robinson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., price 1s. This little book was compiled upon the suggestion of the Nursing Superintendent of a Poor Law Infirmary. Nurses are now frequently required to apply the simpler tests to urine, and to report accurately upon the results. Little instruction is, however, as a rule, given to them on the subject in the lectures which they receive, or in the wards in which they are working; and they are compelled, consequently, to acquire the necessary information as best they may. When a minimum curriculum of education for nurses is laid down, no doubt a knowledge of simple urine testing will be included, and then those responsible for the training of nurses will necessarily see that instruction is given to their pupils in this subject; meanwhile, any reliable manual on the subject is welcome, and we have great pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the one now under notice.

The book is of a convenient size, bound in buff cloth with gold lettering; the paper and type are both good. After a few introductory remarks the constituency of the urine is described, its colour, consistence, odour, reaction and specific gravity; and the causes are noted, which may occasion a reaction from the normal condition, and the means whereby such variations may be ascertained. The ordinary apparatus required for urine testing is then described, and the method of using the urinometer so as to obtain accurate observations. The tests for albumin, sugar, blood, bile, pus, uric acid, and urates, are then dealt with in detail. The book so far as it goes, is well and clearly written, and it is so free from technical terms of any sort that a probationer should have no difficulty in understanding it. Microscopical examination is not dealt with, as it is not considered that this comes within the province of the nurse. Some useful tables are appended at the end of the book. We think it is likely to prove useful to nurses, and as its price is within the reach of all, it should have a considerable sale.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

THOSE of our readers who are interested in psychology will be glad to have their attention directed to a volume published by Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co., Limited, Charing Cross Road, W.C., price 5s. It deals with proceedings which have taken place at general meetings of the Society for Psychical Research, and contains, amongst other things, an interesting paper read before the Society by Miss Mary H. Kingsley, on the Forms of Apparitions in West Africa. The African is, says Miss Kingsley, endowed with a super-sensitive nervous organization, and she suggests that this may be the reason why he can see things which the duller-nerved Englishman does not. "The African mind may be a more perfect photographic plate on which the spirit world can print itself." A paper by Miss Alice Johnson on "Coincidences" is also of interest, and affords some curious examples.

## The Leonids.

THE latest mad rout of men having departed to see what they can do towards shattering creation, and the women having gone to sweep up the bits—such of us as have kept a level head throughout the uproar may return to our observation of a coming event in our universe, which is not without interest and importance, although dwarfed to extinguishment in the popular mind by the passing military show that entirely takes up the attention of the man in the street and the woman on the housetop, the fierce brute instinct to kill and destroy has found an outlet, and every other sentiment is whirled away into that vortex.

The rural folks, who should be in more sympathetic relations with nature, are, as a matter of fact, equally unimpressed by anything but the war; the milk-boy who urges his sleepy donkey up the hill in the dewy dawn doesn't say "Me and Bill was up on our rick all night to see they come-its." Oh, dear no—his report is, "Father was down tew the 'Lion' last night, and he heerd two thousand more was killed o' Monday, and my big brother's put his name down as a volunteer"—and the Leonids are simply out of the running altogether.

Well, after all, perhaps "climate" has a good deal to say to the general indifference to what may happen in the skies—they are so seldom beheld, they are so misty, so clouded, so dark—and always so "flatted" that we never see the planets hanging in the depths of air, looking like realisable globes, here they merely show as bright discs plaqued against a gray wall, therefore it is probable that no amount of generations of star-gazing would develop in us the optic powers of the pure Arabs who can

"See Jupiter's moons with the naked eye,  
And Venus—as a crescent."

We are waiting for the expected meteors—but alack! the evenings come on with a thick mistiness, and the nights are cloudy, though the sun's risings and settings, have been superb, burning with a more than usual intensity, or so it seems, a local effect only most likely, there being a something hereabouts that lends itself extremely well to atmospheric displays. We are celebrated for our rainbows, for instance, and early in last year—that rarity—the lunar rainbow was observed. It lasted for some time, but was unfortunately not "reported." I mention it because I lately saw a statement that no such rainbow had been reported for four hundred years—a remark I offer for what it is worth—it doesn't belong to me.

Among those who will watch the night through—between the 15th and 16th—surely some will be rewarded by a sight of the Leonids—so-called because they appear to radiate from the constellation "Leo"—that is to say, if no little mistake in calculations has been made, we shall see.

Nov. 14th.

EMILY CRAWEORD.

## Help for the Boers.

SIR JAMES SIVEWRIGHT's hospital party, composed of Cape Colonial subjects for the succour of the wounded Boers in Pretoria, left the Albert Docks at ten o'clock last Wednesday morning, in the Aberdeen liner *Moravian*. They will land at Delagoa Bay, and proceed to Pretoria *via* Komati Poort, the border town on the railway to the Transvaal.

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