

general considerations with respect to the disease, certain special symptoms are passed in review, particular attention being devoted to their relation to season. Then follows an exhaustive discussion of scarlatinal albuminuria. Perhaps the most striking fact brought out in the book is the contrast presented in regard to this symptom between the patients admitted during October and November, and those admitted during December and January. While albumen was discovered previous to "getting up for the first time" in only rather more than 50 per cent. of the latter group of cases, it was found in every such case investigated in the two earlier months. This universal occurrence of albuminuria in the first three weeks of the disease, during the height of the epidemic, is eminently noteworthy; as Dr. Gresswell says, it could not have been "a mere casual incident of pyrexial origin," nor could he account for it by differences of sex, age, stage of illness on admission, or treatment. All observers of the scarlatina of the latter half of 1887 seem to have been impressed with the unusually frequent occurrence of albumen in the urine. Dr. Sweeting referred it to overcrowding; Dr. Gresswell inclines to consider it as accounted for by the change in the character of the disease during the progress of the epidemic.

Although the chapter on "postural albuminuria" is of considerable interest, much of its subject-matter is not immediately connected with the natural history of scarlatina, while an important question like secondary sore throat is very briefly dealt with. Two cases of "reversio eruptionis" are quoted, but in one, as Dr. Gresswell admits, there is but scant evidence that the child had scarlatina on admission.

Attention is particularly devoted throughout to the variations in the phenomena of the disease in their relation to season, and the concluding section of the work contains some interesting suggestions with regard to this topic. The author upholds the view that variations in the life-history of the micro-organism of scarlatina lie at the root of the matter, but surely he goes rather far afield when he alludes to the possibility of the "interfertilization of different kinds of microbes."

The hope may be entertained that Dr. Gresswell will not lack imitators in selecting this particular branch of study as the subject of dissertation for the M.D. degree. There is abundant scope for research at the Asylums Board hospitals, and if the work be as full of interest as it is in the example before us, it cannot fail to redound to the credit of the worker.

*Le Soleil; les Etoiles.* By Gabriel Dallet. (Paris: Firmin-Didot et Cie., 1890.)

THE chapters on the constellations, in this work, are of a very comprehensive character. That devoted to a description of instruments of observation contains a fair amount of useful information, whilst tables of parallaxes and proper motions, double and variable stars, and other interesting objects visible in our hemisphere, compiled from the British Association Catalogue, *Connaissance des Temps*, and *L'Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes*, are plentifully and properly distributed throughout, and render the work what it purports to be, an "Astronomie Pratique." The author is, however, evidently not at home when writing on spectroscopy, and is considerably behind the recent developments in that branch of astronomy. As an example of this deficiency we would cite his assertion that the spectrum of the Orion nebula consists of three bright lines, as discovered by Dr. Huggins in 1864, although recent observations have increased the number visible to nine, and the photographic spectrum shows many times this amount.

The author seems also to have very vague ideas as to the origin of the universe. He says:—"Notre soleil et ses planètes ont dû se trouver au centre d'une nébuleuse, mais la matière cosmique qui la

formait comprenait une variété considérable d'éléments chimiques qui ne se présentent pas dans nébuleuses proprement dites"; a conclusion which leads him to write:—"Nous pouvons dire avec M. Huggins que les nébuleuses à spectre gazeux sont des systèmes ayant une structure et une organisation à part, et qui sont d'un ordre différent de celui dont notre soleil, avec ses planètes, faisait partie dans la nébuleuse primitive"; although in justice to Dr. Huggins it should be said that he has now rejected the conviction that "the nebulae which give a gaseous spectrum are systems possessing a structure, and a purpose in relation to the universe, altogether distinct and of another order from the great group of cosmical bodies to which our sun and the fixed stars belong."

Little spectroscopy other than this is included in the work, observations of sun-spots and prominences being mainly considered from a pictorial point of view. There is no doubt, however, that the twelve maps of the heavens will be of service to amateur astronomers, and that the ninety-three illustrations are in general well chosen. We should be glad, therefore, to see the slight inaccuracies that we have indicated eliminated in a future edition.

*Father Perry, F.R.S.* By Aloysius L. Cortie, S.J. (London: The Catholic Truth Society, 1890.)

THE author of this little book was a friend of the late Father Perry, and is, therefore, most capable of writing a sketch of his life and work, and few lives could afford more of the material which makes such a sketch interesting.

The programme of work undertaken by the deceased astronomer ten years ago at Stonyhurst College Observatory was comprehensive. It included the daily drawing of the sun when possible, the measurement of the depth of the chromosphere, the heights of prominences, and observations of sun-spot spectra, and this programme was faithfully adhered to up to the time of his death. The method of obtaining the drawings of sun-spots which have appeared in the *Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society* is described, and the reproduction of two of the largest spots shows how much can be effected by means of the pencil. These drawings are of great importance, and supplement solar photographs. The main object in making them was to throw light upon the theories of the mode of formation of spots, and to find, if possible, the clue to the connection between terrestrial magnetism and solar activity. This discussion however, was cut short by death.

A copy of the photograph of the solar corona, from the observation of which Father Perry was carried to his death-bed, testifies more than volumes of words to the character of the man whose life is before us, and the long list of published papers and the expeditions in which he took part speak of his industry. A few of his notes on faculae and veiled spots are appended, and render this volume of 112 pages something more than a biography.

*Prodomus Faunæ Mediterraneæ sive Descriptio Animalium maris Mediterranei incolarum quam comparata silva rerum quatenus innotuit adjectis locis et nominibus vulgaribus eorumque auctoribus in commodum Zoologorum congestit* Julius Victor Carus. Vol. I. Pars II., Vol. II., Pars I. (Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagshandlung.)

SOME five years ago we welcomed the appearance of the first part of Prof. J. Victor Carus's "Prodomus Faunæ Mediterraneæ" (*NATURE*, vol. xxxi. p. 201); since then, two additional parts have been published. The second completes vol. i., and contains the Arthropods; it was published early in 1885. The third part, the first of vol. ii., was published late in last year, and contains the Brachiostomata and Mollusca.