

The portions of the volume dealing with the fauna and flora, both of land and sea, are well done, and ought to prove of the utmost utility and service to naturalists. Dr. Packard has done the work of an explorer in a most masterly manner, not only setting before us the geographical skeleton of Labrador, but doing much, so far as his opportunities went—and no man's have gone farther—to clothe the bones with an array of many of the necessary facts for the building up of a complete account of the territory. To those who come after him may be left the task of filling in many details; the greater part of the work has already been accomplished, and the record is before us in these pages.

There is an excellent index, but the maps and illustrations are far from clear, and require much more distinctness than has been given them. A word of the highest praise must be accorded to the bibliography, which must have given the author a vast amount of trouble before it assumed its present admirable shape.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE AND ITS TRANSACTIONS IN REVIEW.

The Transactions of the Sanitary Institute, 1891. Vol. XII. (London, 1892.)

THE Transactions of the Sanitary Institute cannot fail to interest a considerable section of the community now that the general principles of sanitation have become so generally appreciated, and fresh sanitary matter is so eagerly devoured—and generally assimilated—by the enlightened section of the public.

It may not be generally known that the Institute only dates its birth from the year 1876, and this fact will be the more difficult to grasp when one notes in the well-bound volume of which we write, the present scope of its transactions.

The headquarters of the Institute are in Margaret Street, W., in a building known as the Parkes' Museum, so-called to commemorate the celebrated Hygienist of that name. The whole purpose of this museum is to serve as a means of practical demonstration for the diffusion of knowledge in sanitary science, and at the present day it undoubtedly forms the best collection in Great Britain of all the various apparatus and material which can be claimed to have any connection with the public health. The value of such an institution does not need insistence upon here; but the remarks of the chairman, Sir Douglas Galton, in his recent address, may be aptly reproduced. "The evils," he says, "of our congested population meet us at every turn. If our progenitors had been properly educated in sanitary matters, our towns would not have been allowed to contain unhealthy localities; houses would not have been permitted to be built on damp unhealthy sites; buildings would not have been constructed so as to impede the circulation of air and incidence of light. Our town populations would not have been allowed to grow up herded together like the beasts of the field, without moral training or self-restraint; and our country population would not have been allowed to destroy the healthy conditions which surround them, by vitiating the pure air, and by contaminating the springs of pure water. The Sanitary Institute is thus the direct outgrowth of the public need for sanitary education!"

An excellent descriptive catalogue of the contents of the museum has recently been compiled, and those only among the 11,500 persons who have visited the building during the year ending March, 1892, who were acquainted with the museum so recently as eighteen months ago, can appreciate at its true worth the value of this addition, and can adequately testify to the improvement in the arrangement and grouping of the various sanitary appliances which has also been effected. This catalogue is bound up with the last volume of "Transactions," which, in addition, includes a lengthy list of Fellows, Members, and Associates of the Institute; a list of the contributions to the very valuable library during 1891; a very full report of valuable and able papers of hygienic interest, which have been read by Dr. Louis Parkes, Mr. Grantham, Prof. Wynter Blyth, and Sir Douglas Galton. The volume also contains a copy of the Annual Report of the Council, and a glimpse of this gives one a capital insight into the scope and work of the Institute.

In the lecture-room, in addition to papers such as those referred to above, a systematic course of lectures for sanitary officers is given throughout the year by a staff of exceptionally capable lecturers, including as it does such gentlemen as Sir Douglas Galton, Prof. Corfield, Dr. Louis Parkes, Mr. Shirley Murphy, Prof. Wynter Blyth, Prof. H. Robinson, &c. That the worth of these lectures is appreciated is sufficiently exemplified by the fact that 161 students attended them during the year; nor are they lacking attractions similar to that which insured the constant attendance of young Mr. Parker at the village choir-meetings, for they are regularly patronized by one or two female devotees of the Goddess Hygeia. There are, however, lectures provided entirely for ladies by Dr. A. T. Schofield, who treated the following subjects in his last course:—

"The Domestic Treatment of Disease."

"Microbes."

"Physical Culture."

"The Care of Old Age."

These have been well attended, and the Duchess of Albany recently presented the prizes gained by those who emerged successfully from a competitive class examination upon these subjects. The Institute holds examinations twice yearly for inspectors of nuisances and local surveyors. At these examinations 361 candidates presented themselves during the year, and 246 received "certificates of competency." Both lectures and examinations are now being provided in several large provincial towns, at a great saving of expense and trouble to aspirants for the "certificate of competency," and with the apparent effect of considerably stimulating local interest in sanitary matters. Finally, the annual Health Congress held under the auspices of the Institute is always an instructive and interesting feature in its proceedings, and is largely attended and much appreciated.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Coolley's Cyclopædia of Practical Receipts. By W. North, M.A. Camb., F.C.S. Seventh Edition, revised and greatly enlarged. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1892.)

THIS work is intended as a general book of reference for manufacturers, tradesmen, amateurs, and heads of families,