

Germany, that influenza may occur sometimes as an apparently primary pneumonia.

The remaining tables deal with the data afforded by the epidemics of 1891 and 1892 in this country and abroad. That of 1891 is shown to have been much more fatal, especially at advanced periods of life, than that of 1890, while that of 1892, here treated of with less fulness than the preceding, seems to have been of still greater severity. Those who would follow Dr. Dixey into the details of these outbreaks must study the work for themselves. It is a contribution to statistical literature of very great value, and will save an infinity of labour to those engaged in the study of influenza.

A word of praise must be bestowed in conclusion upon the graphic charts with which the tables have been illustrated, those in particular which deal with the mortality curves from influenza and its allied diseases. These have been calculated and mapped out as percentage deviations from the mean, and show the main facts at a glance in a way which mere columns of figures fail to do. Those also which illustrate the age incidence of the diseases in question are of great value.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

An Elementary Text-Book of Hygiene. By H. Rowland Wakefield. (London: Blackie and Son, 1892.)

THE appearance of yet another elementary text-book upon the subject of Hygiene has the effect of aggravating the *embarras de richesses* which already obtains in this department of study; one is therefore justified in questioning the utility of the present volume, and on reading in the preface that it is adapted to the requirements of the Science and Art Department, there is all the more matter for surprise at its appearance in the face of three other publications—each better than the present—which have been written to meet the same end.

The manual is well printed and concisely written, and a surprising amount of matter is condensed within its tiny compass. This latter fact, however, is not entirely a matter for congratulation, for apart from making the book "dry reading," it must have the effect of rendering it in many places difficult of comprehension to those for whom it is intended, *i.e.* those who approach the subject with no prior knowledge whatever.

And thus it comes about, that in less than 200 small pages the whole range of Hygiene is surveyed, including chapters upon Eyes and Sight, School Hygiene, House Sanitation, Personal Hygiene, Parasites, Infectious Diseases, Accidents and Injuries.

Though the material given has been on the whole well selected and carefully compiled, the work is a little uneven; one finds seventy-three pages devoted to "food," whereas "water" is dismissed in seventeen, and "sewage and its removal" in eleven.

Here and there is evidence of the fact that the author is not of the profession to which Hygiene holds a filial relation, and that he was not quite at home with some of the departments of the subject even in their elementary form—which he had set himself the task of handling; the very few errors and ambiguities which this fact is accountable for, are, however, too trivial to much affect the general accuracy of the book.

The small work will doubtless suffice for the examination requirements of those for whom it is intended, but the brevity and superficiality of treatment which is so frequently apparent within its pages, will not justify one in recommending it to those who wish to lay a good and useful foundation for a study of the science of Hygiene.

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Ostwald's Klassiker der Exakten Wissenschaften. Nos. 38-40. (Leipzig: W. Engelmann.)

WE are glad to note the addition of three volumes to this admirable series. No. 38 is the second part of the original account of the photochemical researches of R. Bunsen and H. E. Roscoe (1855-59). The other volumes are translations of a paper by Pasteur on the minute organic bodies in the atmosphere (1862), and of papers by Lavoisier and Laplace on heat (1780 and 1784). In all the volumes there are figures in the text.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Geographical Names.

As the names of places given to the public with the authority of the Geographical Society of London are very apt to be accepted by geographers and be ultimately inserted in atlases and works on geography, I have to call attention to the paragraph "Nomenclature of the Karakoram Peaks," under "Geographical Notes," p. 857, in the December number of the Proceedings of the R.G.S., 1892, which I have lately read. It is to be regretted that so much reliance and importance has been placed on what a native drew on the sand, and the names he gave to various peaks. Natives are not always to be depended upon, not even when the topographical features are in sight, and unless verified from other and independent information, the names they give cannot be implicitly trusted and placed on record, as is so well exemplified in this case. The traveller must also have a considerable knowledge of the native languages or he may be very much misled. As fortunately I know both the places bearing the names given for two very conspicuous peaks, it may not be too late to prevent these names thus put forward from being accepted and perpetuated. "Skeenmung" or "Skinmang" is the name of a comparatively level piece of somewhat grassy ground at the great bifurcation of the Punmah Glacier, the name itself is expressive and is derived from "Skeen" an ibex, and "Mang," a level place in Balti = *Marg*, Kashmiri, *Maidan* Hindustani—which disposes of it as a likely designation for a peak.

Next we have "Chiring" given as the name of K2, the second highest peak in the Himalayas, quite as inaccurate, for it happens to be the name of another camping spot or bivouac at the end of a spur and about halfway between Skeenmung and the Mustakh pass, as used about the period I was there (1860). It is situated just above a very narrow part of the glacier, where its action is most marked on the rocky sides. "Chirna" in Hindustani is to rend, tear, and Chiring Gause is the name of all that portion extending six miles up to the main watershed.

H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN.

Shalford Park, Guildford, January 7.

The Weather of Summer.

THE number of days with rain, in summer, at Greenwich, during most of this century, has been subject to a pretty regular fluctuation. The curve (from 1825) having been smoothed by means of five-year averages, we obtain that shown in the diagram. And putting with it a curve of sun-spots, we find a strikingly definite correspondence (somewhat "lagging" in character) throughout at least four of the sun-spot cycles, the rain day maxima coming soon after the sun-spot maxima, and rain day minima soon after sun-spot minima. In recent years, however, the curves appear to have got out of step (so to speak) with each other; so that, *e.g.* we find a rain day maximum in 1880, two years after the sun-spot minimum of 1878, and a rain day minimum in 1885, two years after the sun-spot maximum of 1883.

I do not remember to have seen the facts of our summer weather put in this way. But it is well known that, in the discussions which arose some time ago about sun-spots and rainfall, there appeared some reason to believe that in the period of