

hope to see them deeply impressed on the public mind.

The instructive descriptions before us are accompanied by excellent figures; nevertheless we have a suggestion to make about the determination of the house-flies. Dr. Graham-Smith has eighteen species of house-frequenting Diptera to deal with (p. 15). Most of them present no serious difficulty, but students unpractised in entomology will find a few hard to distinguish. Would it not be well to lighten their labours by a discrimination-table, which would concentrate attention upon the decisive characters? A single character (*e.g.* the tubercle on the middle tibia of *Fannia scalaris*), is sometimes a certain mark of the species. Or the really decisive characters might be italicised. The student should afterwards compare his fly with the description in every point; identification is not the only purpose of descriptions.

*Non-piercing* strikes us as a neater phrase than *non-bloodsucking*.

*The Ideals and Organisation of a Medical Society.*

By Dr. J. B. Hurry. Pp. 51. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1913.) Price 2s. net.

THE name of Reading, at the present moment, is mostly associated with political excitement; but Reading has many interests, and, among them, it is the home of one of the best of all the provincial medical societies. Dr. Hurry has done well to write an account of the work, purposes, and constitution of a medical society. He is a good friend to Reading; he loves its history, its old buildings; he has made many gifts to the town; he has been, for years, its chief chronicler; and the Reading Pathological Society is an example of all that a medical society ought to be. Indeed, a good medical society is a very great help to a town. It raises the level of things; it promotes the spirit of science; it ensures the efficiency of the town's hospital; it is a bond of union among practitioners; it adds dignity, distinction, and modernity to their art, and friendship and ambition. The interchange of knowledge, the comparison of experiences, the criticism, the honourable competition, all tend to achievement. Of course, there are difficulties; the hard-worked doctor cannot easily find time to attend meetings or to prepare papers. Waste of time, repetition, overlapping of subjects, are to be avoided, but are not always easy of avoidance. But a good medical society, such as the Reading Pathological Society, is an excellent help to men in practice, and to the town in which they practise.

*A Day in the Moon.* By the Abbé Th. Moreux. Pp. viii + 199. (London: Hutchinson and Co., 1913.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

IN these pages the Abbé Moreux chats on the moon and all that is related to it, and the reader will find not only that the matter is displayed in a very readable form, but that he will have learnt numerous facts, and have had a very instructive lesson, by the time he has finished the volume. A

day in the moon refers actually to a lunar day, and the reader is transported to the moon and treated as if he were an inhabitant of that body. The author in this way introduces him to the mountain ranges and craters, and other conspicuous high and low lands which are brought into view as the solar rays illuminate them. Here and there are brought in incidentally interesting side issues, such as the probable use of lenses before ever Galileo or the inventor, a certain Dutchman, came to re-invent and use them. Bringing the reader back to earth again, he introduces him to such themes as the tides, possible weather changes due to the moon, action of the moon on vegetation and organic life, and on men and animals, and finally concludes with a list of objects shown on a map of the moon, those to be studied on each day of a lunation, and the lunar elements. Numerous illustrations from photographs and the author's drawings accompany the text. The translator has done his work well, and has, in the form of footnotes, made many statements more clear to British readers, such as when references were made to the metric system of measurements, and to distances between French towns.

*Recent Physical Research.* An Account of some Recent Contributions to Experimental Physics. By D. Owen. Pp. iii + 156. (London: The Electrician Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., n.d.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

A PUBLICATION dealing with some of the most important recent developments of physics is sure to be of use if written with sufficient knowledge and a pleasing style. This book has both those advantages. The subjects include positive rays (with Thomson's new method of chemical analysis), the magnetic work of Curie, Weiss, and Heusler, new theories of the aurora (Störmer and Birkeland), Brownian movements (Einstein and Perrin), the pressure of light, the narrowing gap between the longest heat-waves and the shortest electromagnetic waves (Rubens, Lebedef), and the application of the electron theory to metallic conduction. The blocks are particularly good. One could wish for rather fuller references, and for a fuller treatment of the modern radiation problem (on p. 106 Planck's and Wien's formulæ are presented without directing attention to the importance of the "action constant"). But in view of the limited space at the author's disposal, a large amount of new information is attractively displayed.

*Lip-reading: Principles and Practice.* A Handbook for Teachers and for Self-instruction. By Edward B. Nitchie. Pp. xiv + 324. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., n.d.) Price 5s. net.

THE hard-of-hearing will be able to study lip-reading from this book without the aid of a teacher, if such a course is found necessary. The book is arranged also for use, under a teacher's guidance, by the semi-mute and the congenitally deaf who have acquired speech and language. The first part of the book is explanatory and directive, and the second gives exercises for practice.