

ties of milk are next considered, first the ferments or enzymes, and then the substances concerned in the production of immunity; important properties have been attributed to the former which do not, however, seem to be borne out by the clinical and experimental work which has been carried out concerning them. Breast-feeding, the nutritive value of raw and boiled milk for the young of the same and of different species, and clinical data on the nutritive value of raw and boiled milk for infant feeding and on the alleged production of Barlow's disease and rickets by the use of heated milk for infants, are rightly dealt with at some length. Dr. Lane-Clayton arrives at the conclusions:—(1) The superiority of breast-feeding over artificial feeding is striking; (2) little difference, if any, appears to be detected between feeding with raw and feeding with boiled milk; (3) the changes which occur on heating milk to a temperature of about 100° C. for a short period cannot be regarded as having any detrimental influence from the nutritional point of view; (4) there may be a connection between the *twofold* heating of milk and Barlow's disease, but the aetiology is not clear; and (5) there is no evidence to show that the use of heated milk is productive of rickets.

The cellular content of milk, the changes which ensue in milk on heating, pathogenic organisms in milk, sources of contamination of milk and the means whereby such contamination may be lessened or prevented, are other subjects dealt with.

A few errors have been noted and one or two criticisms might be made. On p. 10, in a table giving the composition of milk for different breeds of cows, the total solids are given as ranging from 26·7 to 34·7 per cent. These figures, of course, are utterly wrong (they should be in the neighbourhood of 12·0–13·0 per cent.), and it is difficult to surmise to what they refer. On p. 50 Fe₂O₃ is three times referred to as "ferrous oxide." Minute quantities of iron are present in milk—1–2 parts per million for human milk, and 0·3–0·7 part per million for cows' milk, of Fe₂O₃. May not so small a quantity be derived from admixed red-blood corpuscles? We believe that a few red-blood corpuscles are *always* present in milk, but no reference is made to this. In dealing with the composition of milk, while German and other foreign figures are largely quoted, no mention is made either in the text or in the bibliography of the numerous analyses by Droop Richmond—in fact, his name does not appear in the volume—and some of the data quoted are derived from papers twenty to thirty years old.

These, however, are minor points in a volume of such general excellence. We think the Medical Research Committee has been well advised to expend some of the funds at its disposal on the preparation of a work of this kind—a precedent which we hope to see repeated for other branches of medical science—and we congratulate Dr. Lane-Clayton on the admirable summary she has presented of so great a mass of material at her disposal. A number of plates, and of figures and charts in the text, add to the completeness of the volume, which is issued at a very moderate price.

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OUR BOOKSHELF.

The Towns of Roman Britain. By the Rev. J. O. Bevan. Pp. viii+66. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1917.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

THE compilation of this little book was suggested by the author's work in connection with the preparation of an archæological map of Herefordshire. His object, as he states it, was "to provide a compendious guide to readers who desire to study the fruits of the Roman occupation, to trace the roads they laid down, and to possess themselves of the position and essential features of the centres where they congregated for commerce, pleasure, or defence." After a short account of the history and results of the Roman occupation of Britain, Mr. Bevan gives, in alphabetical order, a short account of the chief Roman cities. This is useful so far as it goes, but it is confined to the chief Roman cities, and leaves untouched the numerous other places of interest, in particular the villas, the excavation of which has thrown such clear light on the life of the invaders. It may be hoped that the author will be encouraged to extend his survey. This scheme, carried out within reasonable limits, does not require, as he supposes, "a volume of stupendous size." If, in a new edition, he confines himself to the restricted plan which he has adopted, he would do well to add to his accounts of Roman cities references to the best authorities. A list of the more important general works on the subject would also be a useful addition.

Decennial Index of the "Analyst: The Journal of the Society of Public Analysts and other Analytical Chemists." Vols. xxxi.–xl. (1906–1915). Compiled by Muriel A. Baker. Pp. 733. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., n.d.)

THE subject-matter of this index has been classified under three heads, namely, authors, subjects, and original communications. The last group refers to papers read before, or contributed directly to, the Society of Public Analysts; the others, by far the more extensive, include also references to the numerous abstracts which form so valuable a feature of the society's journal. By the use of heavy type the name, or the subject, as the case may be, is brought prominently before the reader's eye, as is also the date of the paper indexed—a matter which is often of importance in looking up references. A system of punctuation is adopted which, combined with the heavy type, renders it easy to turn up a subject and to see at a glance the scope of the paper indexed, in so far as this is conveyed by the title and sub-title. Two instances taken almost at random will indicate the fullness of the record. The entries under "Arsenic" alone occupy three pages of the index, and those under "Milk" seven pages. In short, the index forms a valuable guide to the development of analytical chemistry in all its branches during the decennial period which it covers; and it may safely be said that during this period not much of practical importance in this branch of chemistry has been published which cannot be traced by means of the references supplied.