

But the book serves another purpose. The authors have sought to place the subject on something like a scientific basis. The importance of a standard method of testing is emphasised; the remarkable influence of media in this connection is referred to, and an attempt is made to explain (though at present little understood) the nature and mechanism of the action. The book is divided into chapters. The introductory chapter deals with various groups of antiseptics and their properties, the laws governing disinfection, the modes of application, and the influence of media. This is followed by chapters on particular groups, beginning with the chlorine group, in connection with which Dr. Dakin's name is so closely associated. The phenolic group, the group of heavy metals, the dyes, and miscellaneous antiseptics such as hydrogen peroxide, ozone, iodine, iodoform, boric acid, etc., are treated in successive chapters.

The final chapter is devoted to special applications of antiseptics, such as the disinfection of "carriers" and that of drinking water, and the production of electrolytic hypochlorite from seawater for disinfecting ships.

Although the pursuit of this subject has been attended in recent years with remarkable success, it must be admitted that the methods have been mainly empirical and to some extent fortuitous. There is still a wide field for more systematic research and study, for there remains very much in the chemical action of antiseptics which is obscure. For a book of 129 pages, and of such small dimensions, the price of 7s. seems excessive.

J. B. C.

MILK HYGIENE.

Principles and Practice of Milk Hygiene. By Prof. L. A. Klein. Pp. x+329. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1917.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book, as its title implies, has been written particularly for the veterinary inspector, but, nevertheless, there is in it a great deal of information which will be of value to the analyst, the bacteriologist, the sanitary inspector, and the dairy student.

A clear account is given in the first chapter of the Zeitzschman theory of milk secretion, according to which two distinct phases are to be recognised in the process. The first is the slow secretion of milk during the intervals between milking, whilst the second phase begins at the bidding of the stimulus due to the act of milking.

The chemical and physical properties of milk are dealt with in the usual way, and there is also a good description of the biological properties. This is followed by an outline of the various groups of bacteria commonly found in milk, and the changes which they directly or indirectly bring about.

Defects of milk, whether due to bacteria or to

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some disease of the animal, are dealt with very fully, and there is a good account of the influence of disease upon milk. Naturally, a prominent place is given to tuberculosis, and the writer divides cows which are liable to cause infection into three classes: (a) those suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, (b) those having normal udders, but showing disease in other parts, (c) those which exhibit no clinical symptoms, but react to the tuberculin test.

As a result of much careful investigation it would appear that the most hopeful lines upon which to work in order to obtain a supply of milk free, or relatively free, from tubercle contamination is to apply the tuberculin test and examine the cows frequently. Full particulars as to methods of examination and the interpretation of symptoms are given later on in the book.

Stress is laid upon the necessity for careful inspection of the cowshed and premises and the maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness in milking, feeding, cleaning, water supply, etc. The use of a partly covered milk-pail is also recommended, and this practice has increased considerably of late years in the United States.

There is one sentence in the chapter upon farm inspection which cannot be too strongly impressed upon all those who are connected with the production of milk; it is this: "The hygienic qualities of milk depend very largely upon the conditions existing at the source of supply." Many enlightened public bodies in this country have acted for some time past upon this axiom with excellent results. The score system of dairy inspection is also explained.

One chapter deals fully with pasteurisation, whilst the rest of the book is devoted to details of the methods used in the examination of milk.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

The Problem of Man's Ancestry. By Prof. F. Wood-Jones. Pp. 48. (London: S.P.C.K., 1918.) Price 7d. net.

In this booklet Prof. Wood-Jones has expanded the substance of a lecture which received considerable attention from the Press when delivered at King's College, Strand, during the past spring. A new hypothesis as to man's origin is put forward and a new place is given to man in the zoological scale—a place far apart from that occupied by the anthropoid apes, with which Prof. Wood-Jones considers man has only a most remote relationship. To explain the number of "primitive" anatomical characters which are to be found in the human body and the number of "human" features which are to be found in that aberrant and diminutive primate *Tarsius*, the author supposes that both man and *Tarsius* have sprung from a common stem—one the root of which is represented in the Lower Eocene strata by *Anaptomorphus* and *Necrolemur*. "If man is a more primitive mammal than are monkeys and apes, and if he undoubtedly belongs to their phylum, then it follows that far