

"being killed by liver disease on bazaar spirits. May there not be some 'middle course' whereby the men may be killed by neither?"

Of the success which followed Miss Nightingale's efforts the fall in the army death rate is the best evidence. Between 1863 and 1873 it fell from 69 to 18 per 1000 and as to the alleged extravagance of sanitation it was pointed out that this fall meant a saving of £285,000 in recruits in a single year. The army death rate has now fallen to 5.04 (1911.) Even after making allowance for the enthusiasm of a biographer there appears to be no doubt that for this immense reduction in human suffering and a corresponding increase in fighting efficiency Miss Nightingale was mainly responsible. Sir Edward is able to quote the opinion of an unprejudiced expert who though he admired her devotion did not always agree with her views or methods. Sir John Strachey said "of the sanitary improvements in India, three fourths are due to Miss Nightingale."

Of her work in connection with village and urban sanitation, the spread of irrigation, the establishment of improved civil hospitals with trained nurses and many other Indian questions it is impossible to write here. On some of them she was undoubtedly a little out of her depth and her advice was not of so weighty a character as on army sanitation, but on all Indian questions her services as a stimulating force, as the keeper of the national conscience were of the greatest possible value. For the details the reader is referred to her admirable biography. The present writer will be satisfied if he has assisted in establishing a more accurate conception of the character of this great woman and in showing that in India, as in England and the Crimea, Florence Nightingale was before everything else, the saviour of the British soldier.

"LECTURES ON MEDICAL DISEASES FOR NURSES." *

To those who are already acquainted with Dr. Forsyth's Lectures, their being found in book form will be welcome, and even more so to those who are looking out for a teachers' or students' Handbook on the subject. Great stress is laid on the necessity of nursing *patients* and not *diseases* only. He does not enter deeply into treatment, but concisely touches on the causes, and aims at helping nurses to understand the reasons wherefore of doctors' orders, and actual conditions to be looked for in treatment being wisely left to the physician in charge, so that there is nothing to clash with any doctor's or hospital's particular method. Each chapter would make an excellent basis for nurses' class lessons as indeed they originally were, and the leader can then give any further teaching on the lines followed in that particular chapter. As nurses are to be the army of preventers, nothing

* By Dr. J. Forsyth, M. D., D. Sc., F. R. C. P. Lond. Pub. by Baillière Tindall and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, price 3/6 net.

can be more needful or more interesting to them taking life in this light, than to be well acquainted with the causes of diseases, and means which will lead to their prevention. Surgery and infants have of late largely usurped the field both of practice and of professional literature, so we are glad to have this up-to-date work on Diseases medical, and highly recommend it to teachers and higher classes of nurses. The Psychological view of Hysteria is much emphasized;—the infective nature of Rheumatic affections with the sage advice that a preliminary visit to the dentist is as well in cases of rheumatoid arthritis, (which, by the way would render many another mysterious case comparatively simple or more easily dealt with), and then the oft-told hopelessness of such cases need not be, if taken in time; that simple or Parenchymatous Goitre is caused probably by a parasite in the drinking water, and in the early stages is very amenable to treatment by medicinal doses of iodine perhaps tend to contradict somewhat the former remark as to absence of laws being laid down as to treatment, but these are not laws laid down, they are indications which way to look.

TWO BOOKS ON MIDWIFERY.

"LABOUR-ROOM CLINICS." *

This is exactly what it professes to be, we are taken into the labour-room of the Eden Hospital and told just what is done in routine practice and in unlooked for emergencies, and what the results are. This little book consists of notes of lectures very slightly elaborated, indeed they are very short and concise, all laid out on the same plan with blank pages interleaved between each letterpress for the student's own notes. It is written for Medical Students, advising when and on what cases to operate, unhesitatingly recommending in some the most heroic measures, in others masterly inactivity. We think it would be of the utmost value to the Indian Student, who usually likes to have a decided authority for all he does, and here the individual cases are very clearly described each by itself;—it would also be of undoubted service to the practising midwife or teacher of Midwifery. A simple useful and oft forgotten aid that the postural treatment in labour to increase the conjugate diameter is, is given its due prominence. With a couple of quotations this note-book shall be speeded on its way to all the success it deserves. "Pinard says that no patient with albumen in her urine ever developed Eclampsia who had been 8 clear days on a milk diet only"—wherefore the importance of regular examination of urine of all pregnant women. "A type of Septicemia not uncommonly met with is due to B. Coli. In these cases,

* By Captain V. B. Green-Armitage M. D., I. M. S., Thacker Spink & Co Calcutta.