

formation before it, especially as the first two hundred advanced proofs were gratuitously distributed, for which we have received the thanks of some of the best known men in the profession.

\*. It is quite possible that there may be an error in the report of what was said at the Pathological Society meeting, as Mr. Grün had to put his question twice, and it had to be answered twice, and it was somewhat difficult to understand exactly what was the point at issue. Mr. Grün's object was apparently to obtain evidence in favour of the theory that the bacilli were killed by their own products—a theory which may be undoubtedly true, but in favour of which the evidence is as yet *nil*, as mere changes in structure can certainly not be looked upon as evidence of the death of the bacilli, especially as they have been proved by inoculation experiments to be alive.

As regards the review of his book, it would perhaps have been better to have said "mis-suggestion" instead of "misstatement," for although Messrs. Grün and Severn are giving their own ideas on Koch's treatment, Mr. Grün appears to forget that Koch has performed a very large number of experiments, whilst the authors have nothing more than a suggestion to offer, in addition to which the idea put forward is so inadequately expressed that it is somewhat difficult to make out exactly what is meant. He says: "But the fluid itself not containing the organism, it is no case of acclimatisation of the system, as is the theory of the inoculation of hydrophobia virus in an attenuated or mitigated state, but if we may be allowed to guess, we would suggest that this treatment depends for its principle on the fact that the bacillus, like others, is killed by an excess of its own poisonous excreta." This is a whole sentence, the one to which we referred. It is not a matter of putting one man's opinion against that of another; it is a case of one theory, which may be wrong, but which is founded on a number of facts, being set against another theory that has no foundation on facts. Mr. Grün states that they describe in their book two methods of staining. This is scarcely correct, as although they give two formulæ, in one of which they use rectified spirit and aniline oil, and in the other alcohol, distilled water, and phenol, the methods are practically the same, as in both cases fuchsin is used as the stain, and this is removed from the tissues by means of nitric acid, methyl blue in both cases being used as a contrast stain, the slight modifications introduced not in any way altering the nature of the stain, and there is certainly no difference as regards the vital question of the removal of the stain, the retention of which by the tubercle bacillus is its chief characteristic.

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#### BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

Reports from the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Edited by J. Batty Tuke, M.D., and D. Noël Paton, M.D. Vol. III. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1891.

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Hypnotisme et Croyances Anciennes. Par le Dr. L. R. Regnier. Paris: Aux Bureaux du Progrès Médical. 1891.

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