

article of food. The mycophagists of the country are not as yet numerous; but they sometimes do an injury to their cause, by recommending the use of certain species of which perhaps the best that can be said is that they are not injurious. *Agaricus procerus*, and *Boletus strobilaceus*, figured in the present work, would not strictly be called edible, except by an enthusiastic mycophagist. We imagine that one whose first experiment in fungus-eating was made upon either of the species just named, would hardly be likely to repeat the experiment.

ROHÉ'S HYGIENE.

THIS book, of small size and modest appearance, is full of important matter, told in a very interesting manner. The preface says it is intended as a guide to the principles and practice of preventive medicine; and we think that every student of medicine should possess it, and study it. Air, water, food, clothing, soil, dwellings, hospitals, camp-life, and numerous other every-day topics, are discussed in condensed sections, but with clearness and intelligence. There are some points, however, which we think should receive greater attention. For instance, in giving the tests for air and water impurities, nothing is said of the methods of analyzing these media for germs. A short paragraph states that the air is the bearer of germs, and that quantitative analyses of the same have recently been made. Although the methods of such analyses are elaborate, and too expensive for students in general to undertake, nevertheless they ought to be explained in a text-book of this kind.

Emphasis is properly laid upon the dangers from sewage in drinking-water. Dr. Rohé takes exceptions to the statement, that rivers quickly purify themselves; and he quotes the report of the Massachusetts board of health for 1876, in which the foul condition of the Blackstone River was proven. He rightly claims that the rate of self-purification for rivers is limited, and may be easily exceeded by the rate of sewage pollution. The danger from using polluted ice is also described and illustrated by reference to cases of disease caused by such ice. Water does not purge itself of impurities by freezing.

The proof-reading of the book seems to have been hastily done, as we notice numerous errors of spelling. We heartily recommend the book, and praise it for the sincere and unaffected spirit in which it is written.

A text-book of hygiene. By GEORGE H. ROHÉ, M.D. Baltimore, Thomas & Evans, 1885. 8°.

THE RESCUE OF GREELY.

IN welcoming Lieut. Greely to the meeting of the geographical section of the British association last summer, Capt. Bedford Pim, himself an arctic traveller of great experience, said that on one of the early expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin, the American ships were observed dashing into the ice ahead of their English companions. "Yes," said an old quartermaster: "they fears nothing, because they knows nothing." But now, since the return of Greely, the gallant captain added, it was evident that "the Americans knew every thing, and feared nothing." This, too, must be the verdict of every one who reads this book, and sees the way in which Schley and Emory, in two Dundee whalers, not merely kept pace with the best ships in the Dundee whaling-fleet, but, pushing by them, rescued Greely and his dying comrades hours, if not days (considering the uncertainties of ice navigation), before the other ships could have reached Cape Sabine, thus saving the lives of several of the party.

It makes an interesting story, and is well told by Professor Soley, who, we suppose, wrote the greater part, if not all, of the narrative. The introductory chapters on the gateway of the polar seas and the circumpolar stations, are too brief to be of much value; while the account of the two previous attempts to reach Greely contains little that will aid one in forming for himself an opinion as to where the responsibility for the deaths of nineteen out of the twenty-five members of the Lady Franklin Bay expedition really belongs. The volume further contains a few good pictures; a track-chart showing the route of Schley's vessels; and the official chart of the region from Baffin Bay to Lincoln Sea, first published in *Science* last February.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A LETTER from Dr. Willis Everette, U.S.A., who recently arrived from St. Michaels, Alaska, at San Francisco, states that his original plan of crossing from the headwaters of the White-river branch of the Yukon to the Copper River, was defeated by the impossibility of getting any companion, either white or native, to undertake the voyage with him. Being thus unaccompanied, he was incommoded by the behavior of the Upper Yukon Indians, who endeavored to purloin his supplies; and therefore he descended

The rescue of Greely. By W. S. SCHLEY and J. R. SOLEY. Illustrated from the photographs and maps of the relief expedition. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1885.