

Professor Halsted has since added to our obligations to him as the bibliographer of this subject by obtaining the original Latin treatise of Saccheri and translating it into English. He found from the beginning that the two words quoted by Beltrami and from Beltrami by me, *diuturnum prælium*, were meant by Saccheri to indicate a mental attitude of constant war against the 'hypothesis' as heretical, without any such 'struggle' in his own mind as he appeared, from my reading of Beltrami, to have 'confessed.' 'The words of Beltrami are not inconsistent with my rendering of the two Latin words.

In May, 1894, on Professor Halsted challenging my word 'confessed,' etc., and sending me his Latin copy of Saccheri, I denied my mistranslation of what Beltrami had set before me, though acknowledging that I had, through the ambiguity of my material, credited Saccheri with a confession of what he did not confess (though he doubtless felt it, as intimated by Beltrami), the 'distracting heretical tendency.' In the last letter which I find on this subject from Professor Halsted, May 8, 1894, he says properly: "In my interpretation of the facts as they exist in the book I am inclined to go much further than Beltrami or yourself. But I wish to distinctly separate historic fact from interpretation, however probable or however much called for." There was no hint that I should publish any correction. I assumed that he would make the case clear in bringing out his translation of Saccheri.

The reader will now observe that I am charged with 'other mistakes,' of which no specification is or has ever been given, publicly or privately, and will form his own judgment. He will kindly note that I am charged with 'mistranslation,' after I had quoted to Professor Halsted the Italian and Latin context of the two Latin words in question and received no reply expressing dissatisfaction, and will form his own judgment. He will finally remark that my references to Beltrami's surprise, etc., are ridiculed as a 'pure fairy tale,' contrary to the fact, by this usually staunch upholder of historical accuracy, and will form his own judgment. And after all he will probably form a wholly incorrect judgment of Professor Hal-

sted's motives, however correct it may be of his imprudence; for I have had too many proofs of personal friendliness from him not to feel sure, in spite of this injury he has done me, that he had no idea that his hasty phrases could injure me, and no motive other than that of 'pointing a moral' for the moment.

EMORY MCCLINTOCK.

MOREISTOWN, Sept. 24, 1895.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*The Climates and Baths of Great Britain.* Vol. I. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. 8vo. pp. xvi+640.

This volume contains the first part of the report of a Committee of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, which Committee was appointed in 1889 to investigate certain questions relating to the climatology and balneology of Great Britain and Ireland, and includes the results of correspondence with medical men, of personal investigations by members of the committee and of the analysis of meteorological and medical statistics relating to the various localities. This first volume relates to the climates of the South of England and the chief medicinal springs of Great Britain.

The chairman of the Committee is Dr. W. M. Ord, of London, and his name is a sufficient guarantee of the accuracy and scientific impartiality of the statements made. In his introductory remarks he points out the contrast between England and Continental Europe from the point of view of the seeker of health, the former furnishing chiefly seacoast resorts while the main sanatory resources of the continent are inland and mountainous.

While a large part of this report is mainly of local interest, being intended especially as a guide to English physicians in prescribing certain health resorts to certain classes of patients, the general principles upon which its recommendations are based are as applicable to many American resorts as they are to the English ones. For example, much of what is said as to the class of cases which may hope for benefit or as to the other class of cases which are likely to be injured by the hot waters of Bath is equally applicable to the Hot Springs of Virginia or of Arkansas. So far as seaside resorts

are concerned, England is peculiarly fortunate in having such a number and variety of them on the southern coast, which presents great differences in outline, soil and climatic influences of various kinds. Dr. Ord remarks that "where a ridge comes down from high inland into the sea, its shelving sides are found to embrace great differences of climate within a small area. We may find one side of a bay exposed to east winds, with an air which is found to be tonic and bracing, while, on the other side, with a westerly or southwesterly aspect, the sun pours in on a beach lying at the foot of high cliffs with almost tropical warmth; and one side of a headland may be so warm as to be held to be relaxing, while the other is cool and invigorating."

In the section on the Climate of Devonshire attention is called to the fact that for years this region has been considered as specially favorable for those suffering from all forms of respiratory trouble, and the reporters, Dr. Symes Thompson and Dr. Lazarus-Barlow, say "from this cause it comes about that a large proportion of the permanent residents have become such from either some actual or hereditary tendency to diseases of the respiratory type." To this it might be added that so far as consumption is concerned, any locality to which large numbers of persons affected with pulmonary tuberculosis have resorted for a number of years is specially liable to be infected with the specific bacillus from dried sputa, wherever this has been deposited in more or less dark places.

In speaking of one locality the significant remark is made that "typhoid fever has virtually disappeared from Sandown since the new water supply was established in 1863."

The really valuable thermal and mineral springs of Great Britain are comparatively few in number. There are no alkaline waters. Bath and Buxton are the only thermal waters of importance. Harrogate and Strathpeffer are the chief sulphurous spas, and the strongest saline waters are those of Droitwich and Nantwich. There are no chalybeate springs of great reputation, but there are several which have considerable value.

Considering the great number and variety of

thermal and mineral waters in the United States, many of the springs containing considerable quantities of salts, having important therapeutic qualities, it is much to be desired that a scientific, impartial report upon them, similar to the one above referred to, should be prepared and published for the benefit not only of our own people, but of the world at large. No doubt at present it would be impossible to obtain the requisite data, for while we have a fair amount of reliable chemical analyses of the different waters, the statistics of disease and death are for the most part wanting and the meteorological data are still incomplete, although much has been done in this direction within the last ten years.

In the meantime, until we can have such a report of our own, those who are interested in health resorts, whether as physicians, patients, or friends of the sick, will find much in this volume to interest and instruct them.

J. S. BILLINGS.

*Leitfaden für histologische Untersuchungen.* VON DR. BERNHARD RAWITZ, Privatdozenten an der Universität Berlin. Zweite umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Pp. 148, no figures. Verlag von Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1895.

The purpose of this work, as the title states, is to furnish a guide to histological investigation. It is divided into two main sections. The first is devoted to the methods of histology, fixing, hardening, sectioning, staining, etc., and the principles involved in these proceedings. The second part takes up all of the tissues and organs and shows how the methods are applied. Cross references are constantly given, so that only a minimum of repetition is necessary.

The author's preparation for the task has been excellent. Besides the training of the German laboratories, he has prepared an excellent manual of histology and has written several papers giving the results of his own histological investigations.

In going carefully over the methods one can see the discrimination that has been exercised by the author in selecting, from the great number of possible methods, those that his own experience and that of others have found most reliable and most capable of giving the best gen-