fying insects on page 82 contains many errors; statements either the reverse of the truth or otherwise faulty occur in six out of the ten short diagnoses of the orders.

The inaccuracies, of which many more examples could be pointed out, are not the only features that call for criticism. They constitute rather a symptom of debility in other directions. Students of science will gain little profit from a book in which there is a lack of clearness and cogency of thought, and the choice of the text in its present condition for a class in zoology would be one to be deplored.

In dealing with physiology the author is apparently more at home. At least there are fewer errors. There is, however, a very inaccurate original diagram of the sympathetic nervous system, and there are several statements that require emendation. The outlines for practical laboratory experiments form a commendable feature of this part of the work, and the general plan of having physiology follow a course in zoology leading gradually up to the study of man is an excellent one, but it is regrettable that it should have fallen so far short of the ideal in its execution.

S. J. H.

Typhoid Fever. Its Causation, Transmission and Prevention. By GEORGE C. WHIPPLE, Consulting Engineer. With an Introductory Essay by WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK, Professor of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. New York, John Wiley and Sons; London, Chapman and Hall, Limited. 1908.

The publication of a work by a layman on a subject usually regarded as medical is something of an innovation, and a welcome one. It is curious that the preventable diseases, which from the prophylactic standpoint present so many aspects of a technical, but not a purely medical, character, have not been discussed more frequently by sanitarians in works, like this of Mr. Whipple, which are in a form which commends them to the general reading public. The medical profession has often been accused, and justly so, of being too secretive regarding medical affairs. There is an undoubted and salutary reaction within the profession against this policy of secretiveness, and books like Mr. Whipple's will help along this reaction.

Mr. Whipple's work does not go into details regarding the purely clinical aspects of typhoid fever, but merely sketches this side of the disease, and relates for the most part, as the subtitle indicates, to the causation, transmission and prevention of the disease. These subjects are covered in a series of chapters dealing with the life history of the typhoid bacillus within and without the body, the lines of defense against its entrance, statistics dealing with the distribution and epidemiology of the disease, its relation to water supplies, and a brief chapter on the financial loss caused by its prevalence. Useful appendices deal with the use of disinfectants, the rôle of house flies in the spread of the disease, death rates, water analysis, the viability of the germ, and the literature of the subject. The book is well printed, and is admirably illustrated by numerous charts, and an ingenious frontispiece which shows the methods of transmission and means of protection.

The work differs from most of those available to the public in the simplicity of its language, which can be understood by any intelligent layman. It differs from most medical treatises on Typhoid Fever in the emphasis placed on the transmission and prevention of the disease, and in the wealth of statistical detail available to support the various statements. We could have wished that there was more in the book concerning what has actually been accomplished in the prevention of the disease when due to contact rather than water or food transmission. Koch's work at Trier, which shows what can be done to stamp out the disease under certain circumstances, might have been quoted. Though Mr. Whipple's profession naturally impresses upon him most forcibly the dangers of water and food transmission, he recognizes the importance of contact, but does not, we believe, emphasize it so forcibly as is desirable. In the main the work is an admirable one, and worthy of the highest commendation. Professor Sedgwick's introduction is an interesting historical summary of the development of our knowledge of the disease.

GEORGE BLUMER