mal rate from all causes worked out as 9 1-3 per cent.

During the months covering the influenza outbreak—October, November, December and January—deaths of infants exactly doubled over the normal figure for these months, thus indicating that the invasion had a marked effect on women in pregnancy, "premature births" being of more than common occurrence.

Deaths of children under the age of 1 month increased by 50 per cent. over normal during this period, no doubt as a result of many mothers being rendered unfit to properly care for their offspring during the height of the epidemic.

48 children under the age of one year succumbed to influenza given as a direct cause of death, 65 died of broncho-pneumonia and 25 of lobar pneumonia, many of these last two causes doubtless being complicated with influenza.

170 babies died within 24 hours after birth, 71 lived one week, 118 died between the age of one week and one month.

This makes a total of 359 deaths under one month or 50 per cent. of the total deaths of infants for the fiscal year.

Physicians—Varicella Cases Should Always be Reported At Once.

The main issue which seems to concern those most interested in the subject of infant mortality is the question of improper feeding, or a poor milk supply and its possible bearing on diarrheal diseases, "summer complaint," etc., common to very young children.

Under the heading of "Diarrheal Diseases" (under 2 years) the deaths for 1918-19 show a total of 56 under 1 year—this including 10 under the age of 1 month. Therefore it is plainly evident that this class of diseases has but little bearing on the infant mortality situation in San Francisco, and we are led to believe that the character of our milk supply is largely responsible for this favorable showing.

As a matter of fact in a report issued several weeks since by the New York Milk Commission the City of San Francisco is credited as having the lowest infant mortality rate of any city in the Union with a population of 300,000 or over.

This finding was the result of an exhaustive survey made by this Commission covering the period for the calendar year 1918, its chief object being to secure data on deaths of infants caused by improper feeding and its consequent effect on the gastro-intestinal tract.

In the figures submitted by San Francisco in the questionnaire submitted by the New York Milk Commission the same relative ratio of deaths were maintained as set forth herein and we bore away the palm for conservation of infant life.

Without doubt our climatic conditions have much to do with the splendid general health of our babies—they can be kept out of doors practically all the year round—the excessive heat of summer and the rigors of severe winters are unknown to us—and as a result there is a vigor and vitality that is largely lacking in other large centers where the problem of overcrowding, extreme heat and cruel cold is always presented as the seasons roll around.

Physicians—Remember—The Importance of Promptly Reporting Births.

The last report received from the City of New York (week ending August 9) reports 271 deaths of children under one year during that period—140 from diarrheal diseases alone—at the same ratio this would mean 1084 per month, or one and one half as many as we have here in one year, and while it is true that their population is 10 times as large as ours, their baby deaths are 17 times as great.

Book Reviews

Medical Clinics of North America. Volume 2, Number 6 (May 1919); Baltimore Number. Octavo 287 pp. Published bi-monthly. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Price per year, $10.00.

L. F. Barker: Funicular myelitis. Julius Friedenwald: Personal experiences in treatment of ulcer of stomach. Various types of achylia gastria as revealed by Rehfuss method of fractional analysis. John Ruhrah: Epidemic influenza in children. Gordon Wilson: Fundamentals in treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. P. W. Clough: Pneumococcus sepsis. A. L. Bloomfield: Clinical diagnosis of epidemic influenza. T. R. Brown: Gastric signs and symptoms in diseases other than those of the stomach. J. H. King: Gastro-intestinal disturbances in metabolic diseases and diseases of the ductless glands. E. H. Gaither: Diet in treatment of digestive diseases. E. B. Freeman: Esophagoscopy as an aid in diagnosis and treatment of esophageal disease. F. H. Baetjer: Roentgenologic signs of joint lesions in children. Louis Hamman: Diabetes. Serous membrane tuberculosis. Auricular fibrillation. A. K. Krause: Multiple tuberculosis in childhood.

An Introduction to Neurology. By C. Judson Herrick, Ph. D., Professor of Neurology in the University of Chicago. Second edition; reset. 12mo of 394 pages; 140 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Cloth, $2.00 net.

Though intended for medical or even pre-medical students, this is a valuable counselor and guide to that numerous body of practitioners to whom neurology is unexplored or ill explored land. Careful study of such a book as this will give anyone a sound basis for erecting diagnosis in nervous diseases, and at the same time will put him in the way of easy acquaintance with the advanced work in neurology which, without such introduction, is apt to be simply bewildering and discouraging.

The development of the nervous system is traced from the lowest organism, and throughout the work this relationship of morphology and function in man, to primitive forms and functions in the lower vertebrates and invertebrates is kept in mind. The clinical application of anatomical and physiological facts and laws is repeatedly insisted upon.

At the end of each chapter is a short but well selected bibliography of sources for those who wish to follow the subject further. With the index is combined a glossary which is a valuable inclusion.

The style is terse and idiomatic and the illustrations, many of which are original, are adequate without being elaborate. E. W. T.

Clinical Lectures on Infant Feeding: Boston Method by L. W. Hill; Chicago Methods by J. R. Gerstley. 377 pages. Philadelphia: Saunders. 1917. Price $2.75.

This book is based on a series of lectures given in North Carolina at the invitation of the University of North Carolina and the State Board of Health. The circuit was six towns, and the authors differed in their background, Dr. Hill speaking for the American school of pediatrics, presenting clean milk, detailed infant hygiene, and percentage feedings as fundamental, in contrast to the European background from which Dr. Gerstley presents his lectures emphasizing the more complex and difficult types of feeding, making boiled milk the prerequisite for bottle-fed infants. This author, after presenting the Finkelstein method for

preparing albumen milk (pages 220-221), follows it by a simplified method (page 235), which, as he does not specify what cream he uses, has not made an accurate substitute for the original method.

The book contrasts vividly the practical and possible methods of infant feeding that have been developed in this country with the more complex technic which infants' hospitals have developed.

The infant mortality of New Zealand has been reduced by teaching simple fundamental facts to all the people, and if the type of traveling lecture given in North Carolina is to be duplicated in other states, the fundamental, simple methods easily reproduced in the homes of the people should be the main curriculum given by the lecturer to the knowledge-seeking physician.

The idea of the clinic coming to the community and interesting the community's physicians as a group is certainly worthy of further trial throughout the country, and the authors, in publishing their lectures and clinic notes, have presented a new idea worthy of adoption. A. B.

Diet in Health and Disease. By Julius Friedenwald, M. D., Professor of Gastro-Enterology in the University of Maryland School of Medicine and College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore; and John Ruhrah, M. D., Professor of Diseases of Children in the University of Maryland and College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore. Fifth edition, thoroughly revised and enlarged. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Octavo of 919 pages. Cloth, $6.00.

This book contains an immense amount of information in regard to food composition and dietetics. By mentioning the sources of their information, the authors have given us a sort of encyclopedia of everything that has been written on diet. As such, it must have a welcome place in the physician's library. It seems to us, however, that this attempt at completeness constitutes the big defect of a book which is supposed to be a guide for the "general practitioner, the interne and the medical student." Let us suppose that a young physician starting practice has to treat a nervous young woman; enteroptotic, underweight, with an atonic, dilated stomach and a floating kidney. He will find diets for nervous dyspepsia on page 467; for nervous affections of the intestine on page 487; for enteroptosis on page 465; for gastric atony on page 439; for gastric dilatation on page 437; and for floating kidney on page 548. What the girl probably needs is some rest from overwork and an overfeeding diet. An inadequate discussion of the rest cure is found on page 427 and a few lines on forced feeding on page 698. The closely related diet for anemia is on page 519; for tuberculosis on page 399.

Our knowledge of dietetics will never advance so long as we make such a complicated mess of it as that. Even if our patients would follow their diets closely, there is no scientific reason why we should prescribe one diet for gastric dilatation and another for gastric atony. The average textbook on treatment is a compilation of the views of many men. In scores of instances the authors must know that the suggestions are worthless or positively harmful, but they carefully avoid any statement which might help the reader in deciding which of several methods should be followed. Thus on page 445, Friedenwald and Ruhrah give the old Boas' nitrate of silver cure for ulcer without warning the reader that it never had any scientific reason behind it; it never did any good; and anyone who uses it now and produces an argyria will be subject to a serious damage suit.

It is to be hoped that in subsequent editions the authors will inject more of their own opinions and experiences into the book. W. C. A.

Correspondence

PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY INVITATION.

To the Editor:—On Monday evening, October 20th, in the rooms of the San Francisco County Medical Society, Medical Building, the Preventive Dentistry Section of the San Francisco Dental Society will consider the treatment of root canals of deciduous teeth, both infected and uninfected. We wish to extend through the columns of your Journal, an invitation to the Medical Profession to attend this meeting and consider the subject with us. I am unable at this time to definitely announce the names of speakers, but we can assure you an evening well spent.

Any space that you can give to this notice will be appreciated.

Very cordially yours,
JOHN E. GURLEY,
Chairman Program Committee.

San Francisco, Sept. 12, 1919.

DR. VAN ZWALENBURG AT A. M. A.

To the Editor:—A report on the meeting of the American Medical Association. Sure I did enjoy it. So many old friends and new. The "Board walk" was a military procession all day long and most of the night—not all in uniform, but the bulk of the men had been in service. Made us poor rascals who could not get in look like thirty cents. One of the common experiences of life—keep us out and then rub it in by telling us what we missed.

The fellows really looked a little sorry the excitement was over. Yes, the universal **restlessness** is apparent all through the profession, wherever I go—changing, changing. Try for a little better place, that seems to be in the air. Many still talk of coming to California, in spite of the well-known fact that California has more doctors and more quacks than any place on earth. Must be the California spirit draws them.

I had one taste of it. After my last "spare" had blown out after about twenty tire changes in two days with country blacksmith garages in the Pennsylvania mountains, who should appear but our good friend, Dr. Sill of Oakland. After I had made him go on, saying only four miles to Cumberland on the rim, he came back and insisted on putting one of his spare tires on my car to take me into town. He says, "I would expect the same of you." California spirit. Strange too the only time in now six thousand miles that I have met a Californian on the road.

The presence of so many foreign representatives added greatly to the enjoyment of the Victory meetings and emphasized the new turn in the world's affairs—co-operation, brotherhood.

The papers generally naturally dealt largely with the war experiences, and much time was taken to discuss what we don't know about influenza.

In the House of Delegates things moved on very smoothly. The election of president promsied an interesting time with several candidates, but all contest vanished and what little political moves appeared passed into history as among the smoothest and most gentlemanly ever attempted.

Yes, I am still on my vacation—a most enjoyable one. Home in October. Everywhere the dominant comment is upon the general unrest so apparent everywhere, but through it all and particularly in the medical profession runs the note of tolerance, co-operation and mutual helpfulness, and out of it all is coming a better understanding, a more united profession, a real brotherhood.

Very sincerely,
C. VAN ZWALENBURG.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 26, 1919.