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.