be well repaid. The work is concluded by a short chapter on "Nervous and muscular affections dependent upon dental irritation," which we wish had been much longer, as it is a subject of very great importance to every practitioner. On the whole, we are glad to be able to congratulate Mr. Coleman on his work, which we are sure will be received with the greatest pleasure by the dental profession.

Koumiss; or, Fermented Mare's Milk, and its Uses in the Treatment and Cure of Pulmonary Consumption and other Wasting Diseases. With an Appendix on the Best Methods of Fermenting Cow's Milk. By GEORGE L. CARRICK, M.D., Physician to the British Embassy at St. Petersburg, &c. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood & Sons. 1881.

THOSE who are in want of information as to the Koumiss cure of consumption would do well to procure Dr. Carrick's work. From the brief history of Koumiss and its literature, with which the volume commences, it is apparent that this, like so many other modern methods of treatment, is merely a revival of an old method which, however, had never obtained a strong footing in the practice of physicians. The credit of having been the first to estimate the dietetic and therapeutic value of Koumiss belongs to Dr. John Grieve, a Scotch surgeon in the Russian army, who, in the year 1784, sent a communication on the subject to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It was not, however, till the year 1858 that any establishment was erected for the treatment of cases of wasting diseases by Koumiss; but since then the number of patients who have had recourse to the Steppes has been so great that there are now many such institutions.

From the various analyses given, it is shown that mare's milk approaches much more closely in character to woman's milk than does the milk of the cow, from which it differs mainly in possessing less fat and casein, but in a more easily assimilable condition, and more milk-sugar. When fermented it is called Koumiss, which "is a thin, homogeneous, white fluid, which differs in appearance from mare's milk by small bubbles, like those seen in soda water after it has stood a while, bursting on its surface, their number being greatly increased on agitating the fluid. It has a pleasant, sweetish, acid taste,—the latter decidedly predominating,—and leaves on the tongue a curdy, or rather creamy flavour. It reminds one

somewhat of buttermilk, only that it is more tart, while the creamy after-taste is not so decidedly pronounced." According to the method by which it has been prepared, and the time it has been kept, it varies greatly in strength,—*i. e.*, in regard to the quantity of its alcohol, lactic acid, and carbonic dioxide. Hence, also, its physiological effects vary. These are fully discussed in the work before us, as is also its therapeutic action. The most striking of its effects in consumption and other wasting diseases is the rapid manner in which lost flesh is regained, and the remarkable improvement in the outward appearance and spirits of the patients.

Wherever defective nutrition and assimilation exist a course of Koumiss proves beneficial, being the most digestible food that could be employed. The author, however, holds that it has a more specific action in albuminuria, diabetes mellitus, and phthisis pulmonalis. With regard to the first two of these, he cannot speak from personal observation, and his remarks thereby lose in weight. We are rather disposed to think that he has formed an exaggerated opinion of the success with which these diseases have been treated by this method, partly from the fact that he bases his theory of its usefulness in diabetes, to some extent, on the "very successful" skim milk treatment of that disease, and partly because his data are too meagre. What he urges in its favour, however, ought to secure Koumiss a fair trial.

With regard to pulmonary phthisis, the author can speak with more confidence, and he states his case so temperately that his conclusions are deserving of careful consideration. The number of temporary or permanent recoveries from all stages of advancing phthisis which he records, is probably larger than most physicians could bring forward. Of course, Dr. Carrick does not underrate the influence that change of climate had in these cases. So far as his own observations extend, he considers it "absolutely necessary that the Koumiss cure in consumption should be associated with a residence of from two to three summer months at least in the Steppes." Such a statement, taken together with the fact that, in our colder climate, the large consumption of Koumiss necessary in this disease is impossible, is disappointing, as it limits the application of this treatment to those who can afford a journey to Eastern Russia. The climatic influence, however, is not necessary in other diseases, and Koumiss may therefore be tried in them with more hopefulness. Such a trial is now being made, as may be seen from reports in various medical journals. In order that it may be a fair one, it will be

necessary to follow the instructions laid down by those who have personal experience of its value, and these will be found in full in this work.

Table II.—Of the average weight of the Body and Brain, and of several of the Internal Organs of the Insane at decennial periods of life in both sexes. London: J. & A. Churchill.

WE recently noticed Table I of this series and recommended that it should be hung up in every *post-mortem* room. The present table will find its place in the *post-mortem* rooms of our asylums.

The table is constructed on the same plan as No. I, but we have here besides a tabulation of the forms of insanity, which formed the basis of the table. There were altogether 974 cases, of which 558 were males and 416 females. The following notes may be interesting:—

“In comparing above Table with Table I at decennial periods, it will be observed that the weight of the body is greater in the insane, and that the left cerebral hemisphere is heavier than the right. The encephalon in males was slightly heavier in the sane; in females there was no difference in weight between sane and insane.”

“Note.—‘*Are Women inferior to Men?*’—In height the women were 4·3 inches less than men, the average height of men being 5 feet 6·7 inches, and of women 5 feet 2·4 inches. From Table II it appears that the weight of the body on the average of the whole was 22·9 lbs. less in women than men. The proportion that the encephalon bore to the weight of the body in men was one thirty-seventh, and in women one thirty-second,” &c.

REPORTS OF HOSPITAL AND PRIVATE PRACTICE.

GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

REPORTS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF DR. WM. MUIR.

FROM DR. MORTON'S WARDS.

AMPUTATION OF BOTH FOREARMS—RECOVERY.—[Reported by Charles Buchanan Hunter, M.B., C.M.] J. C., æt. 31, was
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