The Bacteria in Asiatic Cholera. By E. KLEIN, M.D., F.R.S.,
Lecturer on General Anatomy and Physiology in the
Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. London:
Macmillan & Co. 1889.

THE present volume is a reprint of a series of articles published in the *Practitioner*, to which is added also a considerable number of contributions which have been made to the knowledge of the comma-bacilli of Koch since that time. The author still holds to the opinion originally expressed in these articles, that Koch's comma-bacilli have not been satisfactorily proved to be the cause of cholera; but while not the actual cause, he agrees with the opinion that they are an important diagnostic guide.

The most inconsistent argument which the author raises against the specificity of the comma-bacillus is, that did we actually know the specific microbe, we should be so enlightened upon the whole subject of cholera as to be in a position strangely in advance of what we are in the case of those diseases where no doubt exists!

A large part of the volume is devoted to a critical examination of Koch's original paper upon the subject, a copious extract from which constitutes the first chapter. Some of the points disputed are the following:—That there does not exist any definite relation between the number of comma-bacilli present in the stools and the severity of the disease; that comma-bacilli are not found in the superficial epithelium, or in the intestinal mucous membrane of the ileum; the opposite of these conditions being maintained by Koch. When two such observers differ on such technical points, it is hardly possible for us to decide; but glancing at the subject as a whole, we must still confess to a feeling of faith in Koch's comma-bacillus. A perusal of the author's opinions will be found both instructive and interesting, but hardly convincing.

The Illustrated Optical Manual. By Surgeon-General Sir T. LONGMORE, C.B., F.R.C.S. Fourth edition. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

THIS is in many respects an admirable text-book. It is written for the guidance of army surgeons, but ought to be of great use to many general practitioners. The great beauty of the book lies in its simplicity. There are no abstruse problems or deductions, and the statements throughout are clear and distinct. In short, a practitioner who has little or no idea either of physical or geometric optics, may obtain, from the