Lectures on Sanitary Law. By A. WYNTER BLYTH, M.R.C.S. (England), L.S.A. (London), Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, Professor of Hygiene, College of State Medicine. London: Macmillan & Co. 1893.

THIS volume comprises twelve lectures on sanitary law delivered by the author at the College of State Medicine as part of the usual course of instruction on sanitary science. In an appendix are examples of bye-laws in force in the Metropolis as to certain offensive trades, &c., and also proposed bye-laws under the Public Health (London) Act. The various statutes relating to the adulteration of food and drugs are also inserted.

While primarily intended to convey instruction in the working of the various Acts which are specially applicable to England, the work is a useful one to all who are engaged in sanitary work elsewhere. Decisions are frequently quoted or referred to, especially in cases where an alternative reading of a clause would seem to suggest some ambiguity in its interpretation. The volume forms a valuable addition to the standard literature of sanitation.

The Health Officer's Pocket-book. By EDWARD F. WILLOUGHBY, M.D. Lond., D.P.H. Lond. and Camb. London: Crosby, Lockwood & Son. 1893.

THE author's intention is that this work should form a portable book of reference for such facts, formulæ, and data as are indispensable in the daily work of a sanitary officer. Part I is devoted to Practical Hygiene, and Part II to Sanitary Law, and under one or other of these sections there is little in the whole field of hygiene which does not find a place in the volume. We cannot refrain from expressing our opinion that Dr. Willoughby has well accomplished the aim which he had in view; but in one page, which we shall afterwards refer to, there occur so many statements which are so absolutely at variance with the opinions of other authorities, and with our own experience, that we feel compelled to refer to them at length, in the hope that when a second edition of the work is called for some attempt will be made to bring them into line with current experience and opinions. On page 122, subsection "Incubation Periods," this statement is made:—"Though not absolutely constant, the wide ranges (of these periods), as from

one to twenty-one days given in books, are based on errors of observation, or on fallacies of inference." This prepares us for the following facts regarding *typhus fever*:—"Incubation about a week. Eruption follows an invasion of one day." This certainly does not correspond with what we know of typhus fever. Then, again, in *small-pox* we are told that the "eruption appears on the thirteenth to fourteenth day from infection, the incubation lasting ten to twelve days." This period may be exceeded. We would like very much to know what our author means in the following statement regarding *scarlatina*:—"The duration of the disease is about a week, and the patient is a source of danger so long as any peeling goes on, say three to six weeks." There is surely some confusion here manifest in his conception of disease. Moreover, in *diphtheria*:—"Apparent extension beyond four days is really due to the nature of the disease not being recognised. Infection lasts a long time—that is, until the throat has resumed a perfectly healthy state." It is difficult to take these statements seriously. Happily, Dr. Willoughby's other facts are not of a like disputable sort, and but for the existence of the unhappy page on which these occur, the book might be heartily commended.

The Sanitary Inspector's Handbook. By ALBERT TAYLOR, Associate Sanitary Institute; Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Vestry of St. George, Hanover Square, London. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1893.

THE volume is dedicated to Professor Corfield, and aims at supplying to the sanitary inspector practical information on the various matters which come daily under his notice. Mr. Taylor is to be congratulated on the production of this work, and we commend it to the notice of sanitary inspectors, and others who wish to become conversant with their duties. Like most works of this class, however, the illustrations of legal procedure are derived entirely from the practice before English courts of law, but this in reality detracts very little from the value of the book, even for Scottish inspectors. In one respect, however, we think it well to introduce a note of warning. On p. 125 the inspector is instructed as to certain enquiries which he is to make in connection with cases of infectious disease, "*always endeavouring to persuade the parents or guardians of the patient to allow the case to be removed to the sanatorium or fever hospital.*" We do not hesitate to regard this instruction as founded on a misconcep-