the chief fault we have to find with it is that it is too short; but, on the other hand, it is well written and well arranged, and will be read, we are sure, by many who would not attempt a book of larger size.

Myxædema and the Thyroid Gland. By JOHN D. GIMLETTE, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. London: J. & A. Churchill. 1895.

WRITTEN originally in Portugese and presented to the Medical School of Lisbon as an inaugural thesis, this synopsis of 120 pages is now published in amplified form in English.

Those specially interested in the subjects dealt with will not find anything that is new, seeing that the volume simply purports to be a convenient epitome of our knowledge regarding myxædema and the thyroid gland, and as such it can be recommended.

We regret that the compiler has thought it unnecessary to provide a bibliographical appendix, as all digests of this class are, by such an addition, rendered of more permanent value.

A Course of Elementary Practical Bacteriology, including Bacteriological Analysis and Chemistry. By A. A. KANTHACK, M.D., M.R.C.P., and J. H. DRYSDALE, M.B., M.R.C.P. London: Macmillan & Co. 1895.

THIS, the most recent of Messrs. Macmillan & Co.'s well known "Manuals for Students," will be welcomed by many who desire simple and definite systematic instruction in the methods of bacteriological investigation. As a laboratory handbook, we believe it will prove of much value, and will be specially useful to candidates for the Diploma of Public Health, seeing that, in the preparation of the volume, their requirements have been borne in mind.

The course of instruction, which is that followed in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is modelled on that of the Pathological Laboratory of the University of Cambridge, and the methods employed those in use in similar laboratories at home and abroad.

The work is divided into three parts, containing in all thirty-eight lessons. Part I, consisting of twelve lessons, deals with the elements of general bacteriology, and includes instruction in the various methods of inoculation and examination of the more important pathogenic microbes. Part II, with

sixteen lessons on bacteriological analysis, affords directions for sterilisation of apparatus, for the preparation of nutrient media, for the examination of air, water, soils, food, milk, for the testing of antiseptics and disinfectants, and so forth. Part III "forms, so to speak, an appendix to the two previous parts, and comprises an introduction to bacteriological chemistry for those who are desirous of devoting some of their time to advanced investigation and research work." The exercises given in this section include the preparation of the metabolic products of microbes, the separation and examination of proteïnes, peptones, albumoses, &c. Uschinsky's method for the preparation of diphtheria toxine forms, for example, one day's work, while, to the examination of ferments and enzymes, two lessons are devoted, one to the investigation of ptomaines.

The general plan of the work is excellent; the directions always lucid and to the point, and workers in this field will find many useful and practical recommendations—or what are commonly known as laboratory "tips"—which they will look in vain for in the pages of an ordinary text-book on bacteriology.

Transactions of the Pathological Society of London.

Vol. XLV. London: Smith, Elder & Co. 1894.

FOR the last four or five years it has been noticeable that the annual volume published by this excellent Society has, in matter of size, been rather on the decrease, and although one is unable to detect in the present issue, or immediately preceding issues, any corresponding deterioration in the nature or importance of the communications contained therein, still, our readers will be pleased to learn that, owing to a modification of the existing regulations, there is every probability that the value of the *Transactions* will be in coming years much enhanced. How this is to be brought about is best gathered from the following statement embodied in the annual report of the Council:—"In view of the disadvantage in which the Society is placed in respect to communications embodying results of recent scientific research, owing to the fact that, according to present regulations, no communication previously published in detail is admissible to the *Transactions*, and no communication can appear in the *Transactions* until several months after the conclusion of the session, your Council has for some time had under consideration means by which this difficulty might be met. The Council has now resolved that