

he has made out a fair if not a very strong case in favour of his hypothesis, but that further inquiry must show whether it is correct or not.

From our Dead Selves to Higher Things. By FREDERICK JAMES GANT, F.R.C.S., Author of "The Lord of Humanity" and other works. London: James Nisbet and Co. 1893.—This is a wholesome book of its kind, and, whether the reader agree wholly or partially with the author or not, is worthy to be read in quiet moments. Of course the general theme bristles with difficulties if looked at from a philosophical point of view, or even from the standpoint of the religious disputant. But, accepting the current thought of orthodox believers in the Christian system, no serious exception is likely to be taken to the way in which the subject is presented. In discussing the various points offered for consideration the author has the advantage of possessing, by virtue of his calling, an intimate acquaintance with the frailties of human nature and with the struggle often required to be undergone by those who seek to attain a higher grade of moral excellence. The subject of the work, however, is scarcely suited for discussion in our pages; and, whilst according our sympathy with the purpose of the author, we must leave the criticism of his book to the theological controversialist.

Certifying Surgeon's Daily Report Book. Manchester: T. H. Hayhurst.—This little book has been designed by Dr. James Holmes, hon. secretary of the Association of Certifying Factory Surgeons, and appears to be very well suited to the purpose it is intended to serve. The book is divided into four sections, which are severally distinguished by the adoption of variously tinted paper, so that each section may be readily referred to. In the first section the number of cases is to be recorded, with age, sex, name of firm &c.; the second is intended to record particulars of cases rejected, with reasons for rejection and the nature of manufacture for which the certificate was refused, and so on; in the third section space is reserved for a record of reports of accidents, for the name of the person injured and the nature of the injury sustained; finally, blank sheets are provided for the entry of general memoranda. For the purpose of assisting certifying surgeons in the work imposed upon them by the Legislature, we cannot doubt the book will be of distinct value. Probably some little modification in its arrangement may be suggested by further experience.

Analytical Records

FROM

THE LANCET LABORATORY.

WALDEN'S EXTRACT OF RENNET.

(R. W. WALDEN, EATON-SQUARE, S.W.)

THIS preparation is evidently the genuine extract of the fourth stomach of the calf. It readily curdles cow's milk at blood heat, and the resulting sweet whey may easily be decanted and subsequently treated with a sufficient quantity of milk-sugar, and new milk, so that its composition may be made to simulate mother's milk. The rennet powder is well adapted also for the preparation of junket, but from the certainty of its action and the ease with which it may be used it is more valuable for the former purpose. Being in the form of a dry powder, the curious ferment contained in it is less likely to undergo undesirable changes in keeping—a distinct advantage over the liquid preparation.

FRUIT SALT BAKING POWDER.

(W. G. DUNN AND CO., CROYDON.)

This powder is free from objectionable ingredients and more particularly alum. It simply contains well-known salts

which when moistened interact and evolve carbonic acid gas. We protest against the use of alum in baking powder. The laws of the country do not allow alum to be used in bread, flour or other foods, and although baking powder is not a food any more than are pepper, vinegar, and mustard it is solely and ostensibly made for no other purpose than for incorporating with certain foods with the object of rendering them porous and light.

ANGIER'S EMULSION OF EARTH OR ROCK OIL WITH HYPOPHOSPHITES OF LIME AND SODA.

(ANGIER CHEMICAL CO., BOSTON, U.S.A.; AND 32, SNOW-HILL, E.C.)

From a chemical point of view the idea of using a pure bland hydrocarbon as a vehicle for hypophosphites is decidedly advantageous, for the preservative properties of a hydrocarbon like petroleum are well known. As a matter of fact, we found in the above preparation the hypophosphites intact, whilst there was little fault to find with the state of the emulsion, which, under the microscope, was seen to consist of minute globules uniformly distributed. The condition of emulsion is destroyed on the addition of ether, especially in acid solution; and the hydrocarbon left on evaporation of the ether consisted of a semi-solid fluorescent oil, becoming quite limpid at 34° C., and boiling above 300° C. That the hypophosphites exist as such was evident from the fact that the emulsion on ignition burnt with a weird-looking greenish flame from the formation of phosphuretted hydrogen due to the reduction of the hypophosphites by the boiling hydrocarbon. The emulsion is perfectly neutral to test paper and gives but feeble evidence to the taste of the presence of petroleum. Petroleum has seldom been employed in this country for internal use, although it has been used both as a vehicle and a medicament in the United States. It has been administered in the treatment of affections of the air passages and for the relief of uterine disorders, its action being chiefly to allay local irritation. The oil used in this emulsion is, according to our own experiments, specially refined and purified, and it may therefore be used with confidence if intended for internal administration. Apart from its stable character, there are other features possessed by a seven times purified hydrocarbon which will doubtless induce practitioners to give this interesting and novel preparation a trial.

BISCUITS CONTAINING SYR. FERRI PHOSPH. CO.

(J. D. MARSHALL, 5, PIMLICO-ROAD, S.W.)

There is nothing about the flavour of these biscuits to indicate the presence of an iron salt; on the contrary, they are very palatable and their texture is satisfactory. Each is stated to contain a teaspoonful dose of syr. ferri phosph. co. This statement is so far borne out by our examination; when the biscuits are soaked in water, for example, the solution is found to be distinctly acid, iron and phosphates being present according to chemical tests. Under the microscope it is evident that oatmeal and wheaten flour form the basis of the biscuits. The addition of iron does not appear to alter the condition of the cereal proteids, for experiment showed a notable proportion of soluble nitrogenous matter.

New Inventions.

DEAN'S CLINICAL THERMOMETER.

THE instrument invented by Mr. A. E. Dean, jun., 73, Hatton-garden, has the novel feature in a clinical thermometer of the readings commencing at the upper part of the stem, away from the bulb. When an observation is taken it is therefore necessary to invert the thermometer, and the column of mercury which has been detached from the bulb and has passed the constriction flows down the stem to unite with a small quantity of mercury