

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Folklore of the teeth by DR. LEO KANNER, recently published by the Macmillan Co., can be heartily recommended as a pleasing and profitable supplement to the library of the dentist as well as others who are interested in science. From the tales of customs and traditions the book contains, the dentist can find a valuable guide to the apprehensions and superstitions of his patient. The successful dentist must know how to relieve pain and how to overcome fear. Certainly when he studies these productions of folklore from all the races, accumulated for thousands of years, he can more clearly understand and master those fears which make his work at the chair difficult.

One wonders at the astounding amount of material Dr. Kanner has gathered from every conceivable source. He has divided this material into six parts. The first part deals with the superstitions concerning quality and position of the teeth as well as their time and succession. Any deviations from the rule were thought to predict the future and be of great significance. Other topics in this section are the golden teeth of folklore, relating the amusing fate of the Silesion boy; prophylaxis and therapy of dentition in which are told of strange methods to prevent uneasy teething in infants and also of the fate of cast milk teeth. In the chapter on cast deciduous teeth, Dr. Kanner brings to attention the fact that the same customs and ideas obtain with various races who do not have contact with each other and who differ entirely in their civilization. He gives the disposal of shed milk teeth as an outstanding example of this paradigm.

In Part 2, which is designated "Popular Dental Hygiene," the general appreciation of healthy teeth is shown by all races throughout the ages; the use of mastic, betel and gambir as cleansing agents; and the folklore and cultural history of the toothpick and toothbrush. The author here tells the story of the trochilus playing a prophylactic rôle for the crocodile. When leeches invade the mouth of the crocodile it swims to the bank and lies with jaws agape, whereupon the bird enters and removes the leeches while the crocodile lies still in order not to harm the bird. Truly a strange sight. Part 3 relates to "Toothache and Its Cure." This portion of the book is particularly amusing. Among other folk etiology, Dr. Kanner introduces us to Bitoso, The Fasting—the toothache demon who in the shape of a worm penetrates the tissues, producing toothache. This

part includes the history of the legion of cures—plant, animal, inorganic and charms in detail. Included also is the rôle of St. Appollonia as patroness of toothache; procedures of transferring toothache and dental surgery.

The next part deals with artificial deformation of the teeth as practiced to a great extent by the colored races with whom the contrast of skin and teeth brings the teeth into prominence. The teeth of all the organs are frequently and variously mutilated and the book details these deformations in chapters on non-therapeutic removal of teeth, pointed teeth and prongs, amputation of the crown and coloration of teeth.

In Part 5 Dr. Kanner discusses teeth as used outside of the oral cavity—as tools, drugs, charms, relics, souvenirs and jewelry. The book closes with a miscellaneous section, including appendages, bibliography and glossary.

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Standard Methods of the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health.—AUGUSTUS B. WADSWORTH, M.D. 704 pages. Price \$7.50, Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1927. These methods have been in a more or less complete type-written form for about ten years. As such they have been subject to constant revision, correction and addition. In some instances they have been taken from the "Standard" Methods of the American Public Health Association with due acknowledgment. There are many local laboratories throughout the state of New York which are doing work connected with public health activities. Those laboratories which meet certain standards are approved by the Central Laboratory (106 standing approved in 1927). In general these methods are in use in all of the approved laboratories and they have now been printed for the use of these laboratories and others interested. Since the methods are not established by law they are subject to constant revision and criticisms are requested from users. The book includes methods used in the Department for the Preparation of Media and Glassware, the Laboratories for Sanitary and Analytical Chemistry, the Research, Publications and Library Department, the Antitoxin, Serum and Vaccine Laboratories, the Diagnostic Laboratories and the Executive Offices. Each of these sections is edited or written by a separate assistant of Dr. Wadsworth. The