NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Modern Therapeutics, a compendium of Recent Formulæ and Scientific Therapeutical Directions. By George H. Napheys, A. M., M. D. Published by S. W. Butler, M. D., Philadelphia.—From recent medical periodicals, monographs and systematic treatises, Dr. Napheys has compiled a most valuable collection of prescriptions and remedies. The form he adopts is an improvement on previous manuals, the classification being according to the diseases, or a nosological one, instead of according to the remedies of the Materia Medica. Mr. Napheys, from his various editorial duties, has remarkable facilities in a work of literary compilation, while we have such a thorough confidence in his judgment and style that we recommend his recipes warmly and with assurance of their value.

We receive from the publishers, Slote, Woodman & Co., New York, a beautiful volume explaining Williams & Richards's System of Penmanship, and intended for teachers and adepts. The descriptive matter inculcates with elegant clearness the theory of forming script letters, while the numerous engraved pages exhibit the very ideal of grace in running-hand, flourishing, fancy lettering, &c. We find with this treatise, however, that it teaches counting-house writing, and not classical writing. The letter-forms are elegant, but they are not based upon the good old models to be seen in bank-note and diploma engravings of ten years since—the models upon which that man of real talent, the late William Fife, of this city, formed his own style and taught it to others. The elegancies and flourishes upheld in these patterns are well enough as the caprices of a finished clerk, but are vicious exemplars for the student.

Reprints.—Messrs. Charles Scribner & Co. have now completed their library edition, corresponding to the English one, of "Froude's History of England, from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada." The final volumes, XI. and XII., are received. They are most beautifully printed on tinted paper, and cost $1 50 the volume of about seven hundred pages. Their popular edition of the same work, of which we have noticed vols. VII. and VIII., is also advancing, at the accommodating price of $1 25 the volume. Mr. Froude is destined to go down to posterity as one of the most original and surprising among the twenty-

makes each, of which they take the most jealous care from the time of parturition, which occurs in two or three weeks after their landing, until they prepare to take their departure at about the first of October. During this long space of time—more than four months—though the young male seals frequently revisit the water in warm weather several times during the day, the *seacutchers* and females never do, but remain on the beach in the same place that they first took up their abode. Bright sunshine troubles them, and creates great restlessness among them; so much so that if it were to continue for more than three days, it would necessitate their going into the water, thereby disarranging the family groupings and causing the death of a great portion of the young from desertion and consequent starvation. But by a wise ordinance of Providence the good health of the seals, but being far that of the human beings on the islands, this never occurs; in fact, the duration of the sun's undisputed reign is rarely over six hours in length, while a week will often pass in which he is but "seen through a fog darkly." The power of these animals, not only to exist, but to support their young without any visible nourishment is wonderful; they have often been cut open, and nothing found in their stomachs but a few small stones. They lose greatly in weight, however, for when they come in the spring they are replete with fatness; but by the time their young are large enough to go in the water, they are weak and emaciated in the extreme.

The Fur Seal is an entirely different animal from the common Hair Seal, that is frequently met with in our harbor, not only in regard to generical classification, but also in relative size (the skin of the former being very valuable, while that of the latter is comparatively worthless.

As the male Fur Seals grow out their size increases with such regularity that we are enabled to see them can readily tell their age at sight. When first born, they are a foot in length, and covered with fine black hair; they are then entirely useless for commercial purposes; but the next year the hair changes to a dark brown, and underneath it is a fine yellow fur, which, after being prepared, becomes the "Fur Seal," as generally known; their size has also increased, and seals one year old weigh over one hundred pounds, and are about three feet long. From this time their growth is very rapid; so much so that at the end of fifteen years of age is often more than eight feet in length, and in weight over two thousand pounds. The females, however, never attain the size of the males, their growth ceasing at the third year.

In order to more fully describe the manner in which these animals are killed, I will give an account of one of the many "drives" in which I participated during six months' residence on the island of St. George.

At two A. M. I was awakened by the "Nirachic" (the native foreman) coming into my room; he came to tell me that two men had gone around to the "Starch Artel," a beach three miles from the village, with reports that great numbers of young seal had come ashore, were very well spread over the hill-side, and that the wind was blowing in from the sea, so that there would be no danger of their scenting our approach. On getting up, and finding that the weather was damp enough for our purpose, I gave orders to wake the people of the village, and prepare for a drive.

Soon the sleepy party, consisting of twenty men, were assembled near my house, armed with long, heavy clubs, which are the only weapons needed in encounters of this kind.

It was a northern summer sunrise; but a rising gale swept in filmy gusts across the sky of thick, wet fog over the island. For a few minutes it would be clear, so that points at a mile's distance could be easily seen; and then again, rushing over, mingled with the wall of the ocean, the fog covered everything with a cloud so dense as to render objects not a few feet removed entirely invisible. We started in Indian file, with the "Nirachic" leading, at a half run, along a narrow path, over the cliffs to the seal beach; now skirting their edges, so that we could look down from a dizzy height, at a dash of the waves against their base; and now plunging into deep, narrow valleys, which, relating to his very illness which prevented him in darkness. The natives leaped from one wet and slippery rock to another, with the agility and certainty of a chamois among the Alpine heights; the fear of slipping being entirely obviated by the use of leather moccasins, or flippers of the Sea Lion, for the soles of their feet—this leather possessing an adhesive power almost equal to that of a fly's foot. A half-hour's run brought us to the hills overlooking the beach. It was wholly shrouded from sight, but up from the abyss rose the meaning and bellowing of thousands upon thousands of seals; the wild surroundings made it seem like the cry of lost souls in Pandemonium. "Nirachic," followed by his men, crept softly to that point where the low, wide beach began to slope up from the water, then suddenly, starting up with a shout, and waving their clubs in the air, they ran, following each other at a hundred or more feet apart, along the line made by the base of the hills; the seals, scattering in all directions, were either driven—down on to the beach, or up the hill-side, between fields and the beach a cordon of men was soon formed. The line of men then began to advance up the hill-side; the poor seals, leaping or rolling along, but not making their way with considerable rapidity, were soon driven to the summit, from their refuge, the water. When they had been driven about a quarter of a mile, this huge drove, which must have contained over one thousand, was divided into ten smaller ones; two men were assigned to each of these, with orders to drive in different directions to the village. The reason for this very, that in order to drive seal any considerable time, or distance, the earth has to be very damp; and, as they absorb much of the moisture out of the ground over which they pass, in a very large drove, those in the rear would have to go on dry ground; but, by being so separated, they all have nearly an equal chance.

Having been fully threatened, these droves were easily managed. The seals were allowed to rest after every two hundred yards had been made; they never moved except when urged by the voices of shouts, and waving of clubs, and then in exactly an opposite direction from their drivers. It took about three hours to bring them to the settlement, so it was six o'clock when they arrived there; and all the inhabitants of the village came out to meet them; partly to estimate from the number of seals what their individual gains were to be, and partly also to relieve the tiresome drivers by their co-operation.

The spot chosen for the killing was a little valley, near the shoreline. Here the various droves were united, and the animals, having refreshed themselves, by breakfasting on some of the grass, on which they had killed at the beach and brought in on their backs, now prepared for action. Some two hundred seals were selected from the main body, and having completely surrounded them, the men contracted the circle, driving the seals as they did so into the centre.

Then began the work of destruction. The seals were heaped one on the other, in their eagerness to escape from the death that threatened them on all sides; while the men, armed at their heads with long clubs, and at almost every blow a seal would leap into the air, with a painful moan, fall to the ground, convulsed in agony, and quickly die.

So much actual strength had they, however, that sometimes a seal would seize one of the clubs with his teeth, and wrenching it from the hands of the man who held it, toss it, by a turn of his head, more than thirty feet in a few moments, all those under three years of age were killed, and those over that age were driven off, to find their way to the water as best they might. All the men, women and children then came; and each, taking a seal, worked with such rapidity, that soon the skins had all been taken from those that had been killed. In this way another and another portion was taken from the great mass body, until in the evening it was all exhausted, and the ground for over two acres was covered with bare white bodies, which, in the dim, stormy twilight, reminded one of a field of a battle after a day's combat.

The skins were brought to the storehouse, counted, and each head of a family accredited with the amount that he and his household had taken. The next morning the skins were salted, and having remained in pickle five days, were taken out, rolled in bundles of two each, and were then ready for shipment.

The ground being so rocky, it was impossible to bury the seals' bodies, and to drag them into the sea would cause all the living seals to forever abandon the island; so they were allowed to remain, the natives only taking off enough of fat to supply them with oil, for food and light. At the end of the season, there were many acres of putrefied carcasses, which "reaking up to heaven," brought dire vengeance upon the destroyers, as the list of mortality all too clearly showed. Yet if the seals cause the death of the Aleuts, they are also absolutely necessary for their subsistence, as the islands produce no vegetables whatever; and the inhabitants are obliged to depend entirely on what is brought them for trading purposes. For meat, they use the seal, fresh in summer, salted in winter; varied perhaps, now and then, by a gull or duck; but the means of supplying themselves with the latter are so very inconstant, that were the former frightened away by any mismanagement,—which has frequently been the case at other localities,—the Aleuts would be also obliged to desert the islands, leaving them as they found them, and isolated as they were fifty years ago, when the Russians first brought men to reside there.

The number of seals killed on these two islands has averaged, for the ten years preceding 1868, a little less than one hundred thousand annually; and with proper management, this could probably be continued indefinitely, as the yearly increase is nearly that amount. During the summer of 1868, or the first year that the country came under American rule, there were over two hundred and sixty thousand killed. Last year, although there was an act of Congress forbidding any one even to land on the islands, except by permission from Government, there were nevertheless, more than thirty thousand seals destroyed; the law being enforced and evaded in manner that is peculiarly American, and which calls loudly for a civil service reform.

There are several bills now before Congress, each advocating a separate theory, but all uniting in the wish to preserve the fisheries. The one most feasible, and which will probably be adopted, is that of leasing out both islands, for a term of years, to responsible parties; allowing them to kill a certain number annually; obliging them to take patronage of the Aleutian inhabitants; and holding them accountable for any infringement of its provisions. In this way the Government may derive a revenue varying from one hundred thousand to three hundred thousand dollars annually.

The great market for these skins is London, to which place they are all shipped, via San Francisco, or the Hawaiian Islands; the price varying, according to demand, from three to twenty-eight shillings each. In order to reduce them to the state in which they are usually found in furs, they have to undergo a process of cleaning, cutting, and dyeing, which is to a considerable extent a lost art, the furs formerly done here be a true one—a "lost art." For certain it is that nowhere outside of England is it understood; and even there it is held as a monopoly by a half-dozen business men. The skill required to remove the long hair that covers the fur is only obtained after years of practice, the operation being an extremely delicate one. The skins are placed on frames, and the inner surface pared off, until the roots of the hair are completely severed; while the roots of the fur remain untouched, on account of their nearness to the outside surface. The hair is then very easily removed, and the light yellow fur made ready for dyeing, either to a more golden yellow, a dark purple, or black; and is afterwards brought to the general fur market.

ART ITEMS.

—The Villa Albani, just outside of Rome, which Prince Torlonia wishes to sell to Americans for a price of something like $200,000, is interesting as having been the Academe of the great painter Winckelmann, who died there.

—Here Cardinal Albani, having spent his life in collecting ancient sculpture, formed such perfected such saloons to receive it as all Rome would have done; porticos where the statues stood free upon the pavement, between columns proportioned to their stature; saloons which were not stocked, but embellished, with families of allied statues, and sentiment, without a crowd. Here Winckelmann grew into an antiquary under the Cardinal's patronage and instruction; and here he projected his history of art, which brings this collection considerably into view."

And Murray's Guide thus speaks of its original possession in antique art:—"Belonging to the Gallieria Nobile, the first room on the left contains the celebrated bas-relief Antinous crowned with the lotus-wreath, found in the ruins of the Villa Adriana, and which Winckelmann has described with rapture. 'As fresh and as highly finished,' he says, 'as if it had just left the sculptor's studio. This work, after the Apollo and the Laocoon, is perhaps the most beautiful monument of antiquity which has been transmitted to us.'" It is suggested that this villa would make a delightful residence, and might be converted into an "Artist Home" upon some basis that, at no inordinate expense, might render incalculable service to American art.

—An Exceter's peremptory sale of the works of the late Charles Harvey, of Ballinahinch, celebrated for his connection with, and his death on Thursday evening, March 31st. They are now exhibiting at the Somerville Art Gallery, 82 Fifth avenue, N. Y. Many of the American works were painted expressly for the purchaser, and are now in possession of the