

of great service in these cases, if the subject be plethoric and no hæmorrhage has taken place; an opinion partly based on the fact that he has seen the heart commence to beat (in an experiment on an animal) after a free incision into the liver, or a section of some large venous trunk, or an incision into the distended right heart itself; which suggests that the operation of cardiac aspiration might be performed with benefit in some of these cases.

PAPER VERSUS SLATES IN SCHOOLS.

A correspondent in a recent daily paper over the *nom de plume* of "Parent," complains most bitterly of the action of the Board of Education in substituting paper blocks for the "slates of our daddies." Among other unreasonable observations, he says the action of the board "is certainly dictated by no principle of practical common sense." The writer does not know why the board substituted paper blocks for slates, but he does know that black on white is unquestionably far easier to determine than white on black, and consequently it removes one of the causes of myopia.

When we consider that myopia is greatly increasing in this country, and that it is the cause of about ten per cent. of all cases of blindness (*Ophthalmic Review*, April, 1885, p. 94) we ought to be very thankful that the board realizes in a measure its responsibility, and is determined to diminish, as far as possible, all known causes of myopia. "Parent" only objects to the difference in the expense. Of course it is hard for poor parents with a large number of children to pay for books, paper, etc.; but how much more expensive a single child with defective eyesight! There is no question but that myopia is developed in direct proportion to the unfavorable surroundings and the amount of near work exacted of the young; thus, according to Cohn's statistics in village schools, it was present in only $\frac{4}{100}$ per cent. of the pupils, while in universities it was as high as 59 per cent.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Medical Association was held in Tulane Hall, in the city of New Orleans, La., commencing on Tuesday morning and continuing until the following Friday afternoon, as usual. The president, Dr. Henry F. Campbell, of Georgia, presided, ably assisted by Vice-Presidents Lynch,

of Maryland, Mercer of Nebraska, and Parsons of New Hampshire.

A new and more systematic arrangement had been made for the registration of members, by which most of the crowding and delay experienced in previous years was avoided. Indeed, the entire work of the Committee of Arrangements had been well planned, and so executed as to add greatly to the comfort and convenience of all attending the meeting. The social entertainments were judicious in amount and exceedingly pleasant. The proceedings in the general sessions were characterized by harmony and good order, and the scientific work done in the Sections equal to most of the meetings previously held. The only subject on which action was taken of doubtful propriety, was in relation to the proposed International Triennial Medical Congress of 1887. The conflicting character of the resolutions adopted last year and this, will require much wisdom and moderation on the part of the committees to adjust properly. But we trust the adjustment may be made in such a way as not to materially injure the character and importance of the Congress itself. About 800 delegates and members were reported as registered at the meeting. The full official record of proceedings of the meeting will be given together as soon as received from the permanent secretary.

THE TREATMENT OF HÆMOPHILIA.

In the December number of the *Bristol Medical-Chirurgical Journal*, MR. J. GREIG SMITH reports two cases of hæmophilia, with remarks on the treatment of the affection. In the first case, the blood which came from the wound was of the ordinary watery nature, as observed after considerable hæmorrhage; the hæmoglobin was only six-tenths of the normal, and the corpuscles 1,600,000 instead of 5,000,000. One curious feature in this case was the fact that every large joint in the body has been affected at one time or another. Any little rough treatment would cause the joints to become distended, probably with blood. The joints usually fill in a few hours, cause much pain, and subside in a few days.

As regards the treatment of this affection, Mr. Smith has little to offer that is new, but his remarks are worthy of careful consideration. He does not believe in medicine; the patient should be let alone, he thinks, except that absolute rest in bed, mentally and bodily, locally and generally, with milk diet, and very simple dressings lightly