

by their own exertions without unusual or extraneous support. In any such effort we should have an experiment of reliable and permanent value which would settle the question definitely, and one which would win the cordial approval of even the most skeptical.

MEDICAL NOTES.

— The New Hampshire Medical Society held its eighth semi-annual meeting at Hanover on September 17th and 18th. The members were welcomed by Professor Frost, of the New Hampshire Medical College. Professor Hubbard read a paper upon the Life and Character of Dr. Nathan Smith. Professor Dunster gave a lecture upon the Discovery of Anæsthesia, and Professor Home gave a fine exhibition of microscopical preparations. In the evening there were receptions at the houses of Mrs. Dixi Crosby, Mrs. A. B. Crosby, and Professor Frost.

— There has been much agitation in this city recently of the question of intramural burials. The board of health advise that no further interments be permitted in any of the old grounds of the city. This is opposed by the few remaining members of certain families owning tombs in these cemeteries, and by that portion of the public who see in this the first step towards utilizing the grounds for building purposes. The number of annual burials is so exceedingly small, and has been for so many years, that we can see no harm in allowing the present law to stand as it is. A residence of nearly twenty years in a house adjoining one of these grounds, the bedroom window actually opening on to it, has convinced us that the sanitary advantages of these old air spaces far outweigh any theoretical dangers arising from crumbling vaults. During all this period we hardly remember to have seen more than one or two funerals. The few who wish to be laid beside their relatives should be allowed to depart in peace.

— At a post-mortem examination in a lunatic asylum in Saxony a needle was found imbedded in the heart. It had passed through the posterior wall of the left ventricle. The patient, a man of twenty-five, had died of peritonitis. Previous to his last illness he had always felt well, and never complained of any cardiac trouble. How the needle entered his heart was undiscovered.

— A woman, wife of a laborer at Kettwig, Germany, recently gave birth to five children — four boys and a girl — at one birth. Although very small they were well formed, but lived only a few hours. The mother made a good recovery.

— The new catalogue of the library of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris has been recently completed, and the books have been arranged in order on the shelves. The library contains from 55,000 to 59,000 volumes, more than 20,000 of which had been lying, covered with dust, in obscure places.

— Sir Thomas Maclean, F. R. S., long known as the astronomer royal, recently died at the Cape of Good Hope. He was formerly a physician, but abandoned the profession in order to make important astronomical investigations in Southern Africa. He consequently was soon after appointed astronomer royal.

— A faculty of medicine in connection with the Neva University, Russia, is to be established at Odessa.

— The following is Dr. Kerr's formula for a preparation of red cinchona, which he recommends as of great service in dipsomania: "Add one ounce of the powdered bark to one pint of water, acidulated with one hundred minims of dilute hydrochloric acid. Boil for ten minutes, and strain when cold. Pour water over the contents of the strainer until the product measures one pint. Dose, two ounces every three hours, gradually lessening quantity and frequency of the dose after the first day, until in seven days it is reduced to a teaspoonful three times daily. The most reliable temporary alleviation of the craving for alcohol that Dr. Kerr has ever witnessed followed the use of a full emetic dose of ipecacuanha.

— Dr. Braun, of Vienna, has successfully used the muriate of pilocarpine in eclampsia. Dose, three centigrammes administered hypodermically.

— Sir William Jenner has been forced by an attack of whooping-cough to abandon his practice and leave London. He did so in order that he might not spread the disease.

NEW YORK.

— The fourth annual meeting of the American Academy of Medicine was held at the building of the New York Academy of Medicine on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 16th and 17th. On the evening of the 16th a large audience assembled to hear the address of the president, Louis H. Steiner, A. M., M. D., of Frederick, Maryland, who had selected as his subject *The Preparatory Education most needed by the Medical Student*. This was an admirable effort, characterized by clearness and elegance of diction, and in it he made a strong and eloquent plea for the necessity of a thorough academic education as the only sure foundation on which to build. Believing the ancient classics to furnish the best possible training that could be given the youthful mind, he decried the substitution of other studies for these, while at the same time he urged the importance of logic and rhetoric in preparing the student to make sound deductions from his observations, and express his opinions in the clearest and most attractive manner. Therefore, the best preparatory education for the medical student was the regular old college curriculum; and a great part of the address was devoted to showing from various stand-points why this was the case. The fact, said he, that so many hundreds of students were admitted to the medical colleges without the slightest attention being paid to their previous training should be a source of great regret to the profession, since the evil effects of such a system were only too apparent. Young men who could not even speak or write the English language correctly were received as matriculants in the schools, rushed through the course at railroad speed, and then permitted to appear with their degree of M. D., and claim the right to equality with the most experienced and learned members of the profession. Since ancient times theology, law, and medicine had been considered the three strictly learned professions, and it was entirely wrong that that of medicine should be degraded by a system which permits untrained men to gain so easy access to its ranks. Probably the only remedy for it was to create a strong public opinion against it, which should make

young men ashamed to present themselves as candidates for admission to the profession until they had received the requisite preliminary education. They ought to be made to understand that it would be impossible for them to gain honorable distinction as physicians unless they had first laid such a foundation for their future career, because the successful practitioner of the present age required something more than a superficial knowledge of medicine and surgery. The object of military and naval academies was not merely to teach tactics and the other details of the art of warfare, but also to develop analytical minds, so that when a commander found himself in any difficult emergency he could forget books and professors, and make and execute his own plans instantly upon the spot. So the practicing physician often found himself face to face with serious and unexpected complications, and unless his mind had received the proper scholastic training he would be very likely to fail in devising such measures as would render him master of the situation.

It will, perhaps, be remembered that the American Academy of Medicine was organized at Philadelphia in 1876, at the time of the meeting of the International Medical Congress there, and that the venerable Dr. Traill Green, of Eastern Pennsylvania, was its first president. His successor was Prof. Frank H. Hamilton, of New York, whose term expired last year, when Dr. Steiner was elected. The secretary of the Academy is Dr. Richard J. Dunglison, of Philadelphia.

— The alterations in the building of the New York Academy of Medicine, which give it, among other improvements, a large, commodious, and well-ventilated hall for meetings, are now completed, but the formal opening has not yet taken place.

— At the recent meeting of the Social Science Association at Saratoga, President Barnard, of Columbia College, offered resolutions in favor of the adoption in the United States of the metric system of weights and measures, and among the papers read were one on Sewerage in Small Towns, by George E. Waring, Jr., and one on the Tenement-Houses of New York, by Dr. Charles P. Russell, formerly of the Metropolitan Board of Health.

— Some little excitement was lately occasioned in a remote portion of Jersey City by the reported occurrence of two or three cases of "spotted fever," but the health authorities expressed the opinion that the patients were really suffering from typho-malarial fever.

— Ever since last winter, at the time there were such exaggerated reports about the disease, pleuro-pneumonia has prevailed to a small extent among the cows of the stables in New York, but General Patrick, the state commissioner, Professor Law, and the veterinary surgeon, Dr. James Hopkins, have kept a constant supervision over the stables, and have prevented the further spread of the disease by promptly killing all infected animals. Of late there has been a slight increase in the number of diseased cows discovered. Previous to last month three or four of them were killed every week, but during the last few weeks about half a dozen have been dispatched each week at the offal dock of the health department on the North River. The work of General Patrick and his associates has been of much importance to the public in insuring, to a certain extent at least, a supply of good milk, while the knowl-

edge gained from many autopsies which have been made, and the prolonged study of the disease by the city health officers and other medical men of New York, have led to the discovery of valuable information, which can probably be used to great advantage hereafter in dealing with the disease. Dr. Day, the sanitary superintendent, who has taken great interest in the work, states that there is no cause to fear a spread of the affection, since the comparatively few sick cows found have been scattered about the city, so that the disease is not sufficiently concentrated in any one spot where it could find a chance to develop rapidly.

ST. LOUIS.

— The yellow fever outlook in St. Louis remains unchanged, occasional cases occurring among those coming from the South, which are sent to Quarantine Hospital; at present there are four cases of yellow fever there.

— In Memphis they are making great efforts to disinfect. Privy vaults are being covered with lime preparatory to emptying them and filling them with earth when cold weather sets in. Some two hundred barrels of lime and five thousand gallons of a solution of copperas are used daily by the Tennessee State Board of Health. Nurses when sent out are furnished with a package of sulphate of copper and a package of sulphate of zinc. The discharges of the patient are disinfected with the first, and when death occurs the bodies are immediately washed with a solution of the second, wrapped in a sheet saturated with this solution, and buried.

— At the suggestion of the State Board of Health they are about to place a cordon of mounted men about Memphis, to prevent all egress or ingress of those not furnished with passes.

— Assistant Surgeon L. J. Draper, of the United States navy, who was sent to St. Louis by the government to examine boys applying for the navy, died in that city August 30th, after a brief illness, attended by Dr. Green, United States navy, and Dr. Prewitt of St. Louis. The history pointed to a peritonitis some two years ago, since which time he had never been free from colicky pains. The early part of his illness was marked by constipation. A stomach tube was introduced through the rectum, and injections were given resulting in slight passages, and he was thought to be improving; but upon the 28th of August bloody stools were passed, and the diagnosis of stricture of the small intestines was made. The intestines in the umbilical and hypogastric regions could be plainly felt. Upon post-mortem examination traces of an old peritonitis were found; the viscera were matted together, especially the small intestines, and about the junction of the ileum and jejunum an inflammatory band had formed constricting the gut, and was probably the chief cause of death, although the matting together of the bowels must have seriously interfered with peristaltic action, and thus would have produced chronic constipation.

Dr. Draper's place has been filled by Dr. Green, of the United States navy. Dr. Green does not find much difference between the applicants here and on the coast. There is a larger percentage accepted among boys coming from the country than among those from the cities. Here two out of three have been rejected. Among the most frequent causes of rejection were varicocele and insufficient development.