our local medical society in which the author announced that the disease was the result of filth and heat. When he had concluded, a member asked, if that were true, how was it possible that any of the children in a certain locality escaped, inasmuch as said neighborhood was remarkable for its filth, and yet during the summer just passed, cholera infantum, in fact all forms of disease had failed to occur, and the whole region was as remarkable for its health.

Speaking of medical societies brings up the fact that our County Medical Society now numbers its members up to about 500. This is the union of all specialists and general practitioners; while the Pathological, the Obstetrical, the Neurological, the Medico-Legal, etc., devote their evenings to the subjects after which they are named. Judging by the volumes put forth, each body seems to succeed in evolving from its members a goodly share of work.

Our clinics under the name of dispensaries and hospitals are numerous, and show that not only the younger members of the profession but many of the older ones devote a goodly portion of their time to free prescribing. We had nearly said "for the poor," but this would have been a great error. Fully half of those who apply at such places are abundantly able to pay for both medicine and advice. We have just been told of a case now receiving first-class advice at a public clinic, yet the patient is the daughter of a man owning four horses, several houses, and who is doing an excellent business. Knowing these things, is it any wonder that our profession is crowded here? or that the members must resort to a variety of plans to keep the wolf from the door? Yours,

PHILADELPHIA.

OVARIOTOMY.

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir.—In your issue of October 25, you publish a letter from Prof. Donald McLean, of Detroit. In this he corrects his statement of statistics, *made in Washington last May*. At that meeting he said that from Oct. 1, 1883, to May, 1884, he had done *five* ovariectomies, and that all the cases had recovered. He now says that *one* of these cases died. That leaves him then with *five* ovariectomies from Oct. 1, 1883, to May, 1884, with *one* death and *four* recoveries. Now, I have in my possession a copy of the death certificate of *another*. She died on the 30th day of January, 1884, at Lansing, Mich. Will Prof. McLean recall this case also?

Very respectfully yours,

R. S. SUTTON.

419 Pennsylvania Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ON TUMORS OF THE BLADDER, their Nature, Symptoms and Surgical Treatment, Preceded by a Consideration of the best Methods of Diagnosing all forms of Vesical Disease, including Digital Exploration and its Results, by SIR HENRY THOMPSON,

F.R.C.S., M.B., etc. Phila.: Blakiston, Son & Co. 1884 Pp. 110 (with six plates).

We believe this monograph is the first important contribution to the new and important question of digital exploration of the bladder.

Although the work is entitled "Tumors of the Bladder," yet the vital part of it is contained in the discussion of cystotomy as a justifiable resource in obscure cases of bladder disease, as a step toward diagnosis by digital exploration of the interior of that organ.

This is true first, because no case of tumor can be diagnosed or treated without cystotomy as a preliminary step, and, secondly, because the operation, which is not a serious one, gives marked relief in a large number of cases, even where no tumor is found which can be removed. The relief thus seen to follow, is due to the perfect rest from distension, tenesmus and catheterization which the perineal opening allows to the inflamed organ.

Primarily, therefore, this little book sets out to approve and justify the opening of the bladder for exploration in a large number of cases which heretofore have baffled surgical skill. As this is a question which has for some years been pretty frequently in the minds of surgeons on theoretical grounds, the present contribution will be regarded as settling a vexed question, so far as one man's authority can decide.

In speaking of a tumor found at the autopsy on a case of fatal bladder disease, Sir Henry says:

"It was clear to me from this case that the ordinary sound, 'a lengthened finger' in practised hands, had proved incapable of giving me sufficient information relative to the presence of a considerable growth within the bladder. Supposing that I could but once have put my real finger there, instantly discovering, as I should have done, that easily removable tumor, how different would have been the issue of that unhappy case! He might have been enjoying life and health to-day. What, then, was to prevent me in future, under circumstances of equal gravity and like obscurity, from determining the presence or absence of such a growth by the direct sense of touch, as I could easily have done had the necessity for applying it ever occurred to me? The questions, therefore, naturally presented were: Might it not be possible to examine with my finger the whole interior surface of the bladder; and, if so, from what region could such exploration be most easily and safely accomplished—from the perineum or from the pubes?"—Pp. 10-11.

Here we find stated at once the *rationale* and the justification of the operation for digital exploration of the bladder.

Histories in detail are given of forty-three cases where it was performed. In twenty of these tumors of the interior of the bladder were actually found present and removed. In most of the remainder marked relief followed the operation. Six admirable colored plates and a number of engravings add to the clearness of the work.

E. W. A.

AN AID TO MATERIA MEDICA. ROBERT H. M. DAWBAIN, M.D., New York. J. H. Vail & Co. Cloth, 86 pp.

Contains Drugs, Official Preparations, their strength, dosage, etc. Table of the solubility of chemicals in water and alcohol. Simple methods of metric prescription writing. The author's rule for