or what is known by that name nowadays. It is needless to say that in a school which represents such advanced ideas in science, although intended for the gentler sex, this subject was not treated in a purely sentimental way. The doctor made a good stand against the extreme accusations which are brought against animal experimenters by the anti-vivisectionists. This has led to some newspaper discussion, in which Dr. Owen Wistar, one of the most frank and courageous opponents of unlimited vivisection in the city, offered a correction of some of the statements made by Dr. Keen, as he understood them. To this Dr. Keen has already made a temperate reply. The subject of vivisection has been attracting a good deal of attention lately, on account of the efforts of the anti-vivisectionist society to have a bill passed through the legislature restricting and regulating vivisection, and the efforts of the most prominent experimenters in this city, generally endorsed by the medical profession, to prevent the passage of this bill. So far the bill has not passed, and does not appear likely to pass. Unfortunately, in this city the efforts of the anti-vivisectionists seem to be, or have been supposed to be, directed against certain well known experimenters. This has led to a struggle, assuming a personal character, and assertions have been made in regard to both sides, which were not only disagreeable, but which on sifting, were found to be hard to prove. The agitation, however, can hardly fail of doing good; for, on the one hand, the anti-vivisectionists will learn that vivisection as practiced nowadays is not the unreasonable and cruel thing which it once was, and the experimenters, on the other hand, will probably be influenced to still greater care that their experiments shall not even seem to be cruel. And one who does not see how experimentation upon living animals can well be spared from the workshops of science may hope that a fair discussion of the subject may lead to restricting it within the narrowest limits consistent with reason.

There are two professorial positions in Philadelphia now unoccupied,—the chair of chemistry in the Jefferson Medical College, and the chair of physiology in the University of Pennsylvania. The former is once more opened to candidates on account of the unexpected and speedy resignation of Professor Mallet, whose leaving Philadelphia is a cause of general regret. The resignation of the chair of physiology by Professor Harrison Allen makes an opening for some active physiologist. At present the candidates whose names are seriously mentioned in connection with this chair are three graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, all of whom have been engaged in experimental work and have secured excellent reputation. The rumor is that the chair will not be filled immediately, but that one of the candidates will be selected to lecture for a year, at the end of which time the chair will be filled.

Among the minor excitements of the winter has been the establishment of a series of lectures on accidents and emergencies to be delivered at the Blockley almshouse. These became so popular that tickets had to be issued, for the lecture hall was literally crowded to overflowing again and again, by women who came

to listen to a description of methods for resuscitating the drowning, the hanging, the asphyxiated, as well as the first care of those who had received various lesser or greater injuries. The rush to these lectures was probably simply a fashion, and could hardly be taken as an evidence of a desire of Philadelphia women to become familiar with these subjects.

The County Medical Society has recently inaugurated a series of public lectures, to be given under its auspices at its meeting hall, and to which the general public are invited, to listen, and, if they choose, to take part. At these meetings topics of general public interest are to be discussed. At the first one Dr. Shakespeare lectured upon the "Tubercle bacillus," and its relation to the public health. At the second Col. Ludlow, an officer in the United States Engineer Corps, who is at present most efficiently discharging the duties of chief of the water department of this city, is to give a lecture on the relation of the water supply to the health of the city. The giving of these lectures marks another of the advances which are continually being made by members of the medical profession to distribute to the community the special knowledge which they have gathered.

Another of these steps was marked over a year ago by the formation here of a Medical Jurisprudence Society, which has been very successful, securing the membership and work of some of the most intelligent of the members of both the legal and medical professions of this city. At their meetings the lawyers and the doctors sometimes very plainly occupy their own peculiar standpoints. This was illustrated not long ago in the discussion of a case where a man had been hanged for a most brutal murder committed in the penitentiary on a keeper. The man was declared to be insane by several well-known witnesses in regard to insanity. The commonwealth, however, succeeded in preventing the man's acquittal on this plea, and in due time he was hanged. The subject was discussed before the Medical Jurisprudence Society, and the doctors and lawyers who had stood on opposite sides in the court-room renewed their struggles before the jury of their fellows in the society room. Here the medical experts expressed their opinion as to the absurdities of the laws in such cases, and the district attorney replied with some natural opinions about medical experts. The discussion was animated, and, while it did not lead to any agreement then, will doubtless be of advantage to both sides in the end. And, at any rate, such meetings of men engaged in the work of different professions can hardly fail to do good. Certainly no one would deny their utility in Philadelphia.

C. W. D.

THE SOUTHERN PLAGUE.--ENDEMIC DYSENTERY.

[In our issue of March 14, we stated, in the miscellaneous columns, that what was believed to be a disease similar to that which carried off quite a number of people in Kentucky and West Virginia last fall, had appeared in Lancaster county, South Carolina. We have just received the following note concerning it:]

Dear Sir—Pursuant to your request, I will briefly

describe an endemic dysentery, adynamic in type, and not readily yielding to treatment, which has appeared in this county. As will be seen, it has caused quite a large percentage of mortality. In the majority of the cases the affection has been ushered in by nausea and vomiting, soon followed by bloody and mucous discharges from the bowels. In its early stages the temperature ranges from 99° to 101.5° Fah., but falling as low as 95° in some of the cases after eight or ten days. The pulse was quick and compressible in the cases of two patients who died; in one of these there was complete suppression of urine for two days, in the other for five days. The state of the peripheral circulation, the pulse and the fæces were such as to justify one in classing this affection as a low, adynamic or typhoidal disease; and consequently, alcoholic stimulants, tinct. opii, camphor, bismuth, and in some cases calomel, were used, with charcoal to correct fetor. The belief that malarial poison was a factor in the etiology of the disease would have prompted the liberal use of quinine, but vomiting prevented its continued use. In the cases in which it was tolerated by the stomach it seemed to be of service.

The number affected were: whites 8, five deaths; colored 10, no deaths. The dwelling occupied by the family, of which five died, is less than 400 yards from a sluggish creek, and about the same distance from a fish-pond, and less than 200 yards from a large quantity of sawdust, much of which is of oak, and the portion in contact with the ground is constantly moist. Chills are prevalent on this creek during the autumn months.

As regards this disease being the same as that known as the "southern plague," so fatal in Kentucky and West Virginia last fall, I will say that in my opinion they are entirely different.

I am very truly,

J. H. FOSTER, M.D.

Lancaster C. H., So. Car.
March 14, 1885.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF GYNÆCOLOGY. By THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, M.D., LL.D., etc. Third edition, thoroughly revised, with one hundred and fifty illustrations. 8vo. Pp. xxiv, 876. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., 1884. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

It is scarcely necessary to do more than call the attention of our readers to the fact that the third edition of Dr. Emmet's work on Gynæcology has appeared. We are prepared to place full credence in the statement of the author that the advance and change of views during the past four years have been so great in this department, that the preparation of this edition has necessitated almost as much labor as rewriting the book. The chapters on the relations of education and social condition to development have been almost rewritten; as have those on pelvic cellulitis, the diseases of the ovaries, on ovariectomy, and on stone in the bladder. So also, the chap-

ters on prolapse of the vaginal walls, on lacerations at the vaginal outlet and through the sphincter ani and perinæum; on the methods of partial and complete removal of the uterus for malignant disease, the surgical treatment of fibroid tumors, diseases of the Fallopian tubes, and on diseases of the urethra, are in many respects new, containing the experience and views of the author in a form not hitherto presented, and one hundred and seventy-five pages of new material have been added to these chapters.

There is just one point in this edition to which attention may very properly be called. The author remarks that it is a notable circumstance that those who have given up the use of the spray (carbolic) in Great Britain, have shown the best results (in ovariectomy). "After the last operation I witnessed by Mr. Thornton, I determined never to use the spray again. I suffered for hours with headache and backache, with nearly entire suppression of the action of my kidneys. I was forced to the conviction that if I could suffer to such an extent with my kidneys free from disease, as I believe, the consequences must sometimes be very serious with a patient in a condition less able to withstand the toxical effects." We give the above quotation because the carbolic acid war still rages on both sides of the Atlantic; but it is war in which the principal participants do not suffer so much as the parties of the second part—the patients. Dr. Emmet does not regard the use of a spray injurious in the operation; on the contrary, he expressly says: "A moist atmosphere is better fitted for the exposed peritoneum, so that the spray apparatus can be utilized to advantage in keeping the atmosphere of the room in a sufficiently moist condition." We give this sentence as it stands in the book, because the author has evidently been misinterpreted by Dr. Homans in a recent letter to the Cincinnati *Lancet and Clinic*, of March 14. To hold, in view of recent results and statistics, the carbolic acid spray, or carbolic acid in any form, is necessary or in anywise useful in abdominal surgery, is scarcely less than denying that one should be guided by experience; and we regard this as stating the proposition mildly.

MANUAL OF NERVOUS DISEASES AND AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ELECTRICITY. By A. B. ARNOLD, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Nervous System and Clinical Medicine, College of Physicians, Baltimore, Md. With illustrations. Pp. vii, 170. New York: J. H. Vail & Company, 1885.

We are not disposed to be captious, and we are not dyspeptic, but it is well to remind the author of this book that there are no "Diseases of Clinical Medicine," as the title implies. Within the short compass of 170 pages the author has attempted to write three treatises for the classical and well-worn "Beginner." There is an introductory chapter on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, which "is particularly intended to draw the student's attention to the recent and important accessions to neurology." This introductory chapter covers twenty pages. Then comes a chapter often pages, on "General Symptomatology of Nervous Diseases"; and