

mens. In this paper he recalled Virchow's researches about pathologic alterations of the bones of the skull, especially his fundamental studies on the skulls in cretinism. Having ended his speech he delivered over to Virchow a letter of gratulation of the Medical Faculty of Würzburg, in which was mentioned that, Berlin excepted, Würzburg was the only University at which Virchow had professed his science. Only one of his then mates in the years 1849-1856, Prof. Albert von Kölliker, is a ruddy worker yet; but in Würzburg, the time when Virchow was living there and teaching, was well remembered. In his reply, Virchow especially greeted Kölliker, who then had instructed him well. The last days often had recalled to him his Würzburg years, and he had in mind to give expression to this remembrance by a publication. Prof. Ponfick gave a report on several weighty observations on metastasis of bacteria. By a large line of preparations of bones he showed that bacteria which had made their entrance at any peripheral point of the body remained at last in the bones, and most probably in the lower strata of the periosteum where they under certain circumstances caused pathologic actions whose connection with the first process had not been cleared up till to-day. Ponfick said his investigations were a consequence of the theory of metastasis as founded on Virchow's inquiries. Ponfick ended the speech by delivering the gratulation of the Medical Faculty in Breslau.

Among the many honors presented to Virchow on this occasion, we will yet mention his being nominated Honorary Member of the Physiological Society of Berlin.

THE CHARITÉ HOSPITAL.—In the Royal Charité Hospital in Berlin, one of the largest buildings devoted to curing the sick in Europe, there have of late been opened two new Sections for diseases of the ear, and also for diseases of the throat and nose, under the respective direction of Prof. Frankmann, physician to the German Emperor, and of Prof. B. Frackel. With these two Sections the number of clinical institutions in the Charité Hospital amounts to eighteen. Each part and especially of medicine, has now its separate Section in this Hospital, serving as well for curative purposes as for the instruction of students. Not only in Germany but in Europe this versatility of instruction in one house or, rather collection of buildings, is unequalled. The "Charité" was founded in the year 1727, having then six departments with 200 beds. Together with the progress and specialization of medicine, step by step, the number of buildings serving even more disciples has been augmented. Among others on the grounds of the "Charité" there is the house in which the famous Virchow has his rooms for dissections and microscopic researches, from where his glory and renown has been dispersed throughout the civilized world. Nearly all the Sections of the Hospital are in connection with "clinics." The Hospital has now accommodations for nearly one thousand eight hundred patients. The department for medical instruction has now in contemplation the rebuilding of the oldest parts of the Hospital, adapting them to all newly devised comforts for the sick, with an estimated cost of thirteen millions of marks.

Cerebrin Again.

CHICAGO, NOV. 22, 1893.

To the Editor:—In your issue of August 26, you published a communication of mine on Hammond's cerebrin, in which the presence of nitroglycerin was suspected.

The results of my chemical examination of that article, also of a bottle of Hammond's medullin showed how well founded was that suspicion.

A few weeks later Dr. Hammond made public a reply, the essential part of which is that I could not have analyzed the

genuine article, since I failed to find alcohol and boracic acid in it.

Such a way to meet the issue was so weak, under the light of my statement of the true object of my investigation, that I was contented to let the matter rest without any further remarks.

Since then I have seen a circular issued by the Columbia Chemical Co., the manufacturers of Dr. Hammond's animal extracts, which says that I failed to find water, alcohol, boracic acid and animal matter in the samples examined by me.

Therefore, the trade is warned that unscrupulous dealers get empty bottles of Dr. Hammond's products, and fill them with some dangerous imitation, and palm them off as the real article, out of pure devilry evidently.

Let us bring back the question on its true ground. I never pretended to publish a complete analysis of Dr. Hammond's cerebrin and medullin, because that was unnecessary.

The only question for me to solve was whether the physiologic effects of the two articles are due to some extraneous matter, namely, nitroglycerin, or to some ptomaine.

A priori, there was a faint possibility that a six months, maceration of brain matter might be attended with the production of *neurin*, or *neurin* and *cholin*, possibly *muscarin* also.

Those three alkaloids have decided and powerful physiologic properties, not entirely unlike those of nitroglycerin. The general tests for alkaloids failed to show their presence.

On the other hand, I obtained decided reaction, characteristic of nitroglycerin, or, I added, some other closely allied substance (some nitrite for instance).

Since the publication of my first note, I examined with exactly the same results, another *unbroken package* of cerebrin.

The original bills seen by me, show that the three samples were sold by the Columbia Chemical Co., (New York) to Messrs. Lehn and Fink (New York) who forwarded it to Messrs. Gale and Blocki (Chicago), from whom I received it unopened. With high regard,

M. DELAFONTAINE.

BOOK NOTICES.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts. Boston, 1893.

No health reports have ever been issued in America of a higher class than those of Massachusetts, whether we regard the matter from the standpoint of practical utility, or that of pure science. The fortunate possessor of a set of these reports from the beginning has an excellent library on practical hygiene.

This report is in nowise inferior to its predecessors. It contains 1, the general report containing a summary account of the doings of the Board during the year; 2, a series of special reports on water supply and sewerage; 3, report on artificial ice; 4, report on food and drug inspection; 5, weekly mortality report of cities and towns; 6, reports (5) upon epidemics of typhoid fever in Massachusetts in 1892; 7, health of towns.

The foregoing enumerations of the headings of the table of contents, by no means give more than a suggestion of the valuable reports contained in the volume; they must be seen and read to be appreciated.

We suggest to our brethren in those States where there is yet no Board of Health, that the proper distribution of this report to influential members of their Legislature, would be the most effective object lesson they could use.