whilst Surgical subjects are dealt with by Messrs. Gascoyen, Callender, Hutchinson, Durham, Holmes, M. Beck, and Godlee; Gynæcology by Drs. Barnes, Playfair, and Herman; Diseases of Children by Dr. Eustace Smith; subjects of General Pathology and Morbid Anatomy by Drs. Cayley, Payne, and Gee, whilst Professor Greenfield contributes articles on Micrococci and Malignant Pastule. In fact this summary, incomplete as it is, and written after a general survey of the work, suffices to inform us that the principles of selection of writers were discriminating and judicious; and much of the success and permanent value of the work will rest on them. It would be obviously impossible to attempt a thorough and critical survey of this work of many hands; but all we propose to do in this and the succeeding notice is to select a few of the more important articles to show our readers what to expect within the pages of this bulky volume. In fulfilment of this intention we may just glance at the work of those contributors who have passed away since they penned the articles which remain as the final mementoes of their labour. It is sad to find that one-tenth of the whole band has thus departed, and it seems but due to them that we should notice their work first before proceeding to that of those who remain.

The subjects of Abdominal Aneurism, Diseases of the Aorta, and Thoracic Aneurism are contributed by Dr. Hayden, and are marked by the thoroughness and care with which his large work on Diseases of the Heart is characterised. Of all methods of treatment of aneurism he gives the preference to that of rest and restricted diet; but he does not omit to state that surgical measures have in some cases proved successful; whilst he mentions such medicinal remedies as iodide of potassium, aconite, and ergotine injections, so much approved by some. Dr. Peacock goes over ground well trodden by him before in the articles on Congenital Misplacements and Malformations of the Heart; he also contributes the article on Influenza. Dr. Murchison in like manner deals with Jaundice. Sir J. R. Cormack treats of Croup, Diphtheria, and Diphtheritic Paralysis; and in the first-named article he clearly shows that membranous croup is not the product of simple acute inflammation, but agrees with French writers, with G. Johnson, Jenner, and others, in regarding it as due to the diphtheritic poison. These articles are well worth reading and pondering; for they exhibit in a small compass the solution of many difficulties. Dr. Lockhart Clarke contributed the articles Infantile Paralysis, Locomotor Ataxy, and Progressive Muscular Atrophy, which are detached, perhaps unwisely, from the series of articles on Diseases of the Spinal Cord, contributed by Dr. Bastian. We do not think sufficient stress has been laid by the lamented *savant* upon the "gastric crises," and the joint affections of ataxy, and could have wished that each of these articles had been more thoroughly revised than appears to have been the case. No better choice as the writer upon Anæsthetics, Artificial Respiration, and Resuscitation could have been made than that of Mr. Clover, whose remarks on these subjects will be read as embodying the fruits of a wide experience. The paper on Causes of Disease, by Dr. Pearson Irvine, is a model of systematic writing, and full of suggestiveness. Dr. Parkes has contributed the article on Public Health, which occupies fifteen of these closely printed pages, and deals with the subject as regards—(1st) cities and towns; (2nd) villages; (3rd) houses; ending with remarks on vital statistics. A few additions have been made to the article by Dr. Buchanan. Dr. Seaton writes on Vaccination, and medical men will do well to study this concise statement of the undoubted efficacy of the measure from so high an authority. This article has been revised by Dr. Collie. Dr. Sparks devotes several pages to the important subject of the Treatment of Disease by Climate, and also contributes

papers on certain skin affections, as Lupus, Pemphigus, and Purpura. Dr. Silver gives a clear and accurate description of Addison's Disease, and also a short article upon Suprarenal Capsules. The same writer deals in an excellent manner with Diabetes Mellitus; but here, again, we are reminded of the rapid progress of science, in that we find no mention made of lipæmia and fat-embolism, as a cause of so-called diabetic coma; or indeed of any detailed reference to this latter termination (one of the most frequent in the disease) at all. Dr. Stephen Ward contributes papers on certain diseases of the liver—e.g., Albuminoid Disease, Enlargement, Fatty Disease, Functional Disorders, and Hydatid Disease; Dr. Tilbury Fox writes a few short paragraphs on certain skin affections—e.g., Dysidrosis, Impetigo Contagiosa, Epiphytic Skin Diseases, and Tinea; and Mr. Harry Leach has articles on Quarantine and Scurvy. The names of two surgeons close this list—viz., of Mr. Callender, who contributes the articles on Abscess; and of Mr. Gascoyen, those on Diseases of Cartilage, Condyloma, Fumigation, and Mucous Tubercles.

"POISONING FROM BRAWN."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In connexion with the notice in an article in your issue of the 11th inst., of a report by me of a series of cases with severe gastro-intestinal disturbance following the consumption of pork, you will perhaps allow me to state that since the report in question was written I have had the opportunity of comparing the micro-organisms therein referred to with drawings of those found by Dr. Klein, in the well-known Welbeck ham-poisoning cases, and engraved in the last Report of the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board; and that in both cases the bacilli appear to be morphologically identical. I am quite aware of the unreliability of conclusions as to the nature of bacilli, drawn from considerations of form alone, but with this reservation, the identity in the two cases goes far to prove the specific nature of the disease. I have placed some mounted microscopic specimens obtained from the brawn which produced the symptoms at the disposal of the Local Government Board, in case it should be thought worth while to obtain the opinion of the original observer of the bacilli in the Welbeck cases as to the identity of the micro-organisms in the two cases. These outbreaks are not only most interesting from a pathological point of view, but of some importance from a medico legal one. As in the two fatal cases, which occurred in the first series of cases reported by me, the illness was so sudden and short, and the symptoms so much resembled those of irritant poisoning, that a coroner's inquest was held in both cases.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Shrewsbury, Nov. 15th, 1882. W. N. THURSFIELD, M.D.

THE CASE OF DR. ABRATH.—At Westminster, in the Court of Queen's Bench, before Mr. Justice Field and Mr. Justice Stephens, Sir H. Giffard has moved, on behalf of the plaintiff in the case of Dr. Abrath and the North-Eastern Railway Company, for a rule *nisi* for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict which was given for the defendants was against the weight of evidence, and on the ground of misdirection. Their lordships granted the rule asked for. It will be remembered that the action respecting which the rule was last week asked was one brought by Dr. Abrath against the North-Eastern Railway Company to recover damages for alleged malicious prosecution respecting his treatment of a patient, who subsequently recovered damages for injuries sustained in a collision on that railway.

THE THIRLMERE WATER SCHEME.—The award in the suit brought by Countess Ossalinsky, the proprietor of land at Thirlmere, against the Corporation of Manchester, has been announced. The arbitrator finds the Countess entitled to £64,445, and a sum of either £6000 or £4000 additional, contingent on the view that may be taken of a special point in the case.