the least resistance. Thus, a blow upon the head has, in some of the cases which have come under his observation, appeared to be the exciting cause of an outbreak of the disease in the brain or its membranes, just as a similar influence will sometimes determine its localization in an external part—a fact which is as true however of some other constitutional diseases as of syphilis. Not infrequently among the educated classes which furnish a large proportion of the cases, over-study or prolonged mental excitement or depression seems to be a predisposing cause of some potency in the production of cerebral syphilis. Other causes are venereal excesses, and the various debilitating diseases.

Among all the symptoms of syphilitic disease of the brain or its membranes, Dr. Dowse regards headache as the most distinctive and characteristic. In no other form of cerebral growth is the pain so severe as that which results from a gummatous tumour of the dura mater. It is not relieved by pressure; on the contrary, this often increases it. It is, moreover, often remittent and accompanied, he says, by localized increase of temperature. We can confirm the author's statements in regard to the intensity of the pain in cerebral syphilis, having had several cases under our care in which great suffering resulted from it. We could have wished, however, that he had given us the characters by which its nature could be recognized more fully and clearly than he has done.

Dr. Dowse teaches, and we think correctly, that a vigorous mercurial treatment of the primary stages of syphilis renders the liability to a subsequent attack of disease of the brain less than if the individual is neglected or treated in an expectant manner only. He holds, however, and here we think the experience of those who have had most opportunity for observing the disease will bear him out, that it is utterly impossible, no matter how perfectly this treatment is carried out, ever to assert with certainty that there will be no such manifestations. In the later stages he gives the iodide of potassium in large doses—occasionally as much as half a drachm three times a day. In cases where the patient is broken down in health, he prefaces the anti-syphilitic treatment by tonics and nutrients.

The book is evidently the result of much careful study of the disease, and contains the histories of many interesting and remarkable cases. The author's style is, however, bad; many of the sentences being so clumsily constructed that it is not easy to arrive at his meaning.

J. H. H.

ART. XXI.—*Colour-Blindness; its Dangers and its Detection.* By B. JOY JEFFRIES, M.D., Ophthalmic Surgeon, Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, etc. etc. 12mo. pp. 312. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co., 1879.

THREE papers by Dr. Jeffries on colour-blindness were noticed in the numbers of this Journal for Oct. 1878 and Jan. 1879. The author now publishes the results of his investigations in more permanent form, and gives a complete history of the subject with an account of all that has been done and written by others. Prof. Holmgren's directions for the use of his test are quoted in full. Dr. Jeffries has recently notified us that complete sets of worsteds for making this test can be procured of N. D. Whitney & Co, 129 Fremont St., Boston.

Most of the European governments have taken action in the important matter of excluding the colour-blind from positions in the railway or marine service, where their presence involves the greatest risks, and some of the principal corporations in Great Britain have voluntarily adopted more or less stringent means of

protection; but in this country the subject has hitherto been practically ignored. Dr. Jeffries has the merit of being the first in America to urge its importance. The number of his examinations has reached nearly twenty thousand, and the extent of his investigations enables him to speak with authority. He has succeeded in inducing the Legislature of Massachusetts to take an active interest in the subject, and it has instructed the board of railroad commissioners "to consider whether any legislation is expedient or needful with reference to the employment by railroad corporations of persons afflicted with colour-blindness." It is to be hoped that their report may be in accordance with the teachings of experience and common sense, and that the other States will not long remain behind Massachusetts and the rest of the civilized world.

Dr. Jeffries has repeated the experiments of Prof. Delboeuf, whose paper was also noticed in the number of this Journal for Oct. 1878, with entirely negative results. He does not share the professor's hope that congenital colour-blindness can ever be remedied or relieved.

G. C. H.

ART. XXII.—*Transactions of the American Gynecological Society*, Vol. III. for the year 1878. 8vo. pp. 472. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. 1879.

THE volume appears this year in a new and more attractive form, with the same care in character of paper and press-work, so marked in its predecessors. The size of the work is somewhat smaller, 472 pages, but in character of contents, the reputation of the Society has been well maintained. This, from the rigid exactions in admission to membership, will no doubt continue, as the object of its organization is work, without any regard to numbers. In most scientific hives there are a few workers and many drones; but in this one, there is a strong feeling prevalent against having a preponderance of the latter element. Hence in the year past, there was but one admission; high distinction in the profession, especially as a contributor to its literature, being regarded as essential for fellowship.

The annual meeting having been held in Philadelphia, much that was said has been already laid before our readers in this Journal's supplemental publication, *The Medical News and Library* (see number for October, 1878): we shall therefore make but few special comments.

This Society commenced four years ago, with thirty-nine founders; has increased by the election of nine; and diminished at the same time by the deaths of three of the original fellows; leaving 45. Of these, 30 are, or have been professors in medical schools, and 33 are connected with hospitals. In fact, but three of the forty-five are neither professors nor connected with hospital work at the present time; one being a distinguished ovariologist; another for years a hospital gynecologist; and the third, well known by his learned and abundant work as a contributor to medical science. It is not then to be wondered at, that the three day sessions of this body should attract a crowd of visitors, or their writings and discussions excite an interest in the medical minds of our country.

In the paper by Dr. James P. White, of Buffalo, upon Extra-uterine Pregnancy, he appears to be of the impression, which is by no means an uncommon one, that it is safer to wait for the indications of nature than to open the abdomen and remove the fetus. It is to be regretted that Dr. T. Gaillard Thomas was not present at the discussion on this subject, as his experience and remarkable successes lead him to hold very opposite views. The fatal results of waiting, in