of the reacting substances. The author has accomplished his object in a manner highly creditable to his skill, both as a chemist, and microscopist, and with evidences of patience and perseverance, showing intense mental devotion, and full appreciation of the value of the results to be gained. The illustrations which accompany the text are of a remarkable character, "drawn from nature and transferred to steel by her" (the author's wife) "to whom the work is inscribed," with neatness, precision, and finish, which leaves nothing further to be desired.

It would be in vain to attempt a satisfactory analysis of this work, which is not confined to the chemistry of poisons on a small scale, but enters fully into all the relations of the subject necessary both for the expert and physician; treating of all those which by accident or design may produce fatal results. To such an extent has this been effected, that it would appear scarcely justifiable in any judicial investigation to neglect its teachings, so much having been added to the means by which these substances may be recovered from organic mixtures, and their characters distinctly defined.

R. B.

ART. XXIV.—*Chemistry of the Farm and Sea, with other Familiar Chemical Essays.* By JAS. R. NICHOLS, M.D. pp. 123. Boston: A. Williams & Co., 1867.

A WELL-WRITTEN and instructive little volume, intended to inform those not versed in chemical science upon several points of general interest, in which an accurate knowledge is of great advantage, both to the farmer and general house-keeper. Divided into nine chapters each distinct in itself, it treats of the farm and such of its management as depends for success on chemico-physiological principles; of some of its products in relation to their chemical nature, transformations, and general uses, of the dwelling, in a hygienic regard as to comfort and ventilation, and points out some obscure sources of disease, which, when detected, are readily removed or avoided, such as water impregnated with the results of vegetable decomposition, or contaminated with lead from its action on the service pipes by which it is conveyed. By this slight summary of the principal subjects noticed, it will be seen that they come home to the more important interests of many, and especially of those whose train of thought lies so much outside of their course as not to be turned thereto, except by some exterior force. Some parts of this work have been presented to the public in the form of addresses, and from their genial and attractive style, with much benefit to the hearers, a benefit which should be more extensively diffused by a free dissemination of the publication among that class of readers to whom it should be most acceptable and useful.

R. B.

ART. XXV.—*Eulogium upon the Life, Professional Labours, and Public Services of JOSEPH MATHER SMITH, M. D.* Late Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and of Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Physician to the N. Y. Hospital; President of the Council of Hygiene of the Citizen's Association in the City of New York; President of the N. Y. Academy of Medicine, etc. etc. Delivered before the New York Academy of Medicine, Wednesday Evening, Feb. 6, 1867. By WILLIAM C. RONEATS, M. D. Printed for Private Distribution.

THIS very neat and well deserved eulogium commemorates the private and professional worth of one who, after a life of nearly 78 years, of which some 55 were passed in the successful practice of the healing art, and in other pursuits

calculated to increase the comfort, health, and happiness of his fellow men, and to confer honor and dignity on his native State and country and to contribute, as far as was within his power, to their security, and the perpetuity of their free and liberal institutions: causing his memory to be cherished by his surviving friends and associates, his medical contemporaries and his acquaintances, as that of a learned and skilful cultivator of medical science, an able and successful teacher and writer, an upright and honorable man, and a patriotic and public-spirited citizen.

To the eulogium of Dr. Roberts is appended an address on "The Public Aspects of the Life and Labours of Dr. J. M. SMITH, delivered before the New York State Medical Society, by Dr. Elisha Harris." With this gentleman we fully concur when he describes the life of the deceased as being one full of usefulness: of his personal and professional character as one that deeply impressed and permanently benefited his medical brethren, and blessed the community in which he was long and justly regarded as one of the rarest and most perfect exemplars of the great virtues which should adorn a physician's life. He loved and honoured his profession. He died in peace, and his memory is honoured by all who knew him in life.

D. F. C.

ART. XXVI.—*Surgical Clinic of La Charité: Lessons upon the Diagnosis and Treatment of Surgical Diseases, delivered in the month of August, 1865.* By Professor VELPEAU; collected and edited by A. REGNARD; reviewed by the Professor; translated by W. C. B. FIFIELD, M. D. 12mo. pp. 103. Boston: James Campbell, 1866.

WHATEVER bears the name of Velpeau is entitled to a careful and respectful consideration, and we propose, therefore, to present to our readers in some little detail the views of the illustrious professor, as enunciated in the "Lessons" before us.

We regret, however, that we cannot commend the share of the translator in the production of this volume, for it seems to us that he has scarcely done much credit either to himself or to his author. His notes appear to us to add nothing whatever to the value of the text, while the preface is entirely superfluous, and in parts quite incomprehensible. A glaring mistake upon the title page and sundry inaccuracies throughout the volume might almost tempt us to doubt the extent of the translator's knowledge of the language in which the original is written. The error to which we refer on the title page consists in designating M. Velpeau as "Membre de l'Institut" [sic]; whereas the well-known body of which the eminent surgeon is a member, is grammatically, as well as actually, a masculine assemblage, and it is as incorrect to print its title with the final "c," as it would be to suppose that in its *personnel* it was a conclave of old women.

So much for the work of the translator; we turn with pleasure to an examination of the merits of the book itself, and to a consideration of the valuable instructions which we may derive from the matured reflections of the illustrious surgeon of "La Charité."

Velpeau's service, we learn, comprises 75 beds, and the average number of patients under treatment in each year is about one thousand. During the year the cases of which form the subject of the present volume, the number was 1155, from which are to be deducted, however, 259, who spent but a few hours in the hospital and were not subjects of treatment. Of the remaining 896, almost 76 per cent. (681) were cured, while the mortality was but 6½ per cent. or 56. The proportion of deaths is incorrectly stated in the text to be one in eleven, whereas, from the figures given, it should be as we have seen one in sixteen.

Ninety-five cases of fracture were treated during the year with a mortality of five, two of the latter being cases of fractured skull. Three cases of fractured spine gave two recoveries and one death, in the fatal case the lesion being in the cervical region. We entirely concur in Prof. Velpeau's opinion that the gravity of fractures of the spinal column has been exaggerated.