pure water was at New Orleans, as above stated. The success there obtained has been such as to direct attention anew to Dr. Craig's recommendation.

This circular, like all the others which have been issued from the Surgeon-General's office, contains a great amount of important and instructive information, carefully collected, and skilfully arranged.

ART. XXVII.—*Epidemic Meningitis, or Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.* By ALFRED STILLÉ, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania; Physician to St. Joseph's Hospital, and to the Philadelphia Hospital. 8vo. pp. 178. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1867.

THIS monograph is a timely publication. The affection of which it treats, in view of the enormous death-rate, whenever and wherever it has prevailed, is one of the most fearful of pestilential diseases. Its occurrence is emphatically an outbreak, taking place unexpectedly, and without forewarning; and prevailing, as it has done, in every diversity of climate and locality, there is no situation secure against its ravages. The opinions of physicians are by no means in unison as regards the nature of the disease, and its proper place in the nosology. They who have been called upon to cope with the disease differ concerning the therapeutical measures which are to be employed. These considerations render a work, comprehensive in its scope, and presenting within a small compass a fair digest of our existing knowledge of the disease, peculiarly acceptable at the present time; and the monograph by Prof. Stillé is just such an one as is needed.

The author has studied the disease clinically, having observed about one hundred and twenty cases at the Philadelphia Hospital during the first quarter of the present year (1867). He has, therefore, the advantage of a large experience. He has collected the observations of a large number of writers, the bibliographical list embracing one hundred and sixty publications. To treat of an important subject comprehensively, and, at the same time, with condensation, is a difficult task in authorship; and in this he has succeeded, the work embracing only one hundred and seventy-eight pages.

After a concise history of past outbreaks of the disease in different countries, the author devotes about sixty pages to its symptoms and diverse forms. The anatomical characters are considered in about twenty pages. The causes occupy eight pages.

In the succeeding twenty-eight pages the prognosis, diagnosis, and the nature of the disease are the topics treated of; and, finally, measures of treatment are discussed in the concluding twenty-seven pages.

Under the head of diagnosis, the differential characters which distinguish the disease from typhus fever are fully presented; and a candid examination of these characters must, we think, satisfy all minds not committed to a different conviction of the error of regarding the disease as in any way allied to typhus, albeit the latter view has the sanction of high authority. We would commend especially this portion of the work to the attention of the reader. With respect to its pathological character, the conclusion drawn by Prof. Stillé from the facts pertaining to its clinical history, and the appearances after death is, that it is a blood disease, and an inflammation of the cerebro-spinal membranes combined. To quote the author's language, "The inflammatory element, and the septic element are both necessary to constitute the disease; either may be in excess, and overshadow the other. According to the relative predominance of one or the other, the disease assumes more of a typhoid, or more of an inflammatory type, and it is this diversity in its physiognomy which has led to such opposite doctrines in regard to its nature and its nosological affinities." It is needless to add that he rejects the name "spotted fever," which some writers have lately, and, as it seems to us, very unwisely, adopted.

Therapeutical measures are discussed with that judgment and good sense which eminently distinguish Prof. Stillé's writings. The abstraction of blood by means of scarified cups is recommended in sthenic cases, and the danger of this measure in other cases is emphatically stated. The application of cold to the head and spine is favourably considered. Blisters are to be resorted to with care and discrimination. Concerning the use of alcoholic stimulants, we quote the author's words: "On the whole, we regard alcohol as a medicine which ought not to be included in the ordinary and systematic treatment of epidemic meningitis, but as a cordial to be held in reserve against those signs of failure in the power of the nervous system, which call for its administration in diseases of whatever name." The author bears testimony to the value of opium in this disease, and here too, we quote his words: "We were in the habit of giving one grain of opium every hour in very severe, and every two hours in moderately severe cases, and in no instance was produced either narcotism, or even an approach to that condition. Under the influence of the medicine the pain and spasm subsided, the skin grew warmer and the pulse fuller, and the entire condition of the patient more hopeful. It seemed probable, however, that the full benefit of the opium treatment could be received by those only who were subjected to it in the early stages of the attack." The sulphate of quinia he considers as useful only when the effects of malaria are associated with the disease. Of mercury he is unable to speak from any practical knowledge, but he would be disposed to test its value in sthenic cases, were he to encounter another epidemic.

In concluding this brief notice we would express our sense of the value of monographs treating of particular diseases. We consider such publications as constituting a highly important department of medical literature, and by no means to be superseded by works on Practice, or those which treat of the different groups of diseases. This monograph by Prof. Stillé may be taken as a model for similar works devoted to the consideration of a single disease.

A. F.

ART. XXVIII.—*Reports of American Hospitals for the Insane.*

1. *Of the New Hampshire Asylum, for the fiscal year 1866-67.*
2. *Of the Vermont Asylum, for the fiscal year 1866-67.*
3. *Of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, for 16 months, 1866-67.*
4. *Of the Northampton State Hospital, for the fiscal year 1865-66.*
5. *Of the Hartford Retreat, for the fiscal year 1866-67.*
6. *Of the General Hospital of Connecticut, 1867.*
7. *Of the Bloomingdale Asylum, for the year 1866.*
8. *Of the New York State Asylum, for the fiscal year 1865-66.*
9. *Of the New York City Asylum, for the year 1866.*
10. *Of the Texas State Asylum, for 6 months, 1866-67.*

1. IN the report of the *New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane*, for the official year 1866-67, Dr. Bancroft, in allusion to lectures, concerts, and other entertainments within-doors, says:—

"These things greatly increase the happiness of patients during their necessary stay in the Asylum; and this is by no means among the least of the good results. Nor is it true of the recent cases only, and the convalescent, but the chronic and even demented, who may have little hope of restoration of the lost harmony of their minds, find in these a pleasant interruption of the monotony of life, and no inconsiderable substitute for the pleasures of general society, from which their diseases necessarily separate them.

"To estimate the whole force of this fact, it is to be borne in mind that, contrary to the popular notion, insanity *disorders* oftener than *destroys* the powers; and that oftentimes, even when the mind may be so far diseased as to require separation from general society, it still retains its activity, its powers to appre-